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Moshe Dayan gives Bonn a piece of his mind

Never has a friendly foreign statesman given Bonn such an unmistakable verbal drubbing as Israel's Moshe Dayan last week.

Bonn had still not recovered its composure after President Sadat's visit to Jerusalem the previous weekend; it took its medicine a little helplessly.

Israel and Egypt, erstwhile mortal foes, now plan to negotiate their own settlement of the Middle East conflict. Somehow this is hard to reconcile with the hitherto accepted view of world affairs as seen from Bonn.

It is certainly the first time this country's foreign policy objective of keeping one step ahead of world affairs has so clearly been called into question.

This desire to adapt in advance to anticipated trends played a leading role in *Ostpolitik*, Bonn's policy towards the Eastern Bloc in the late sixties and early seventies.

It has also been applied to other parts of the world including, for instance, South Africa.

In Southern Africa Bonn is banking on its conviction that the only way to deal with the major conflict that is brewing between black and white is to adjust in good time to developments that are deemed inevitable.

On his visit to Bonn Mr Dayan pressed home the advantage afforded by the encounter between President Sadat and Premier Begin to demonstrate that there are other viable ways to conduct foreign policy.

He also took the opportunity of telling this country, as a leading member of the European Community, to hold fire in future with its premature advice.

Bonn, he told his hosts, has been anything but an able advocate of the Israeli cause. Why did this country, unlike the United States, vote in favour of a UN resolution anticipating an outcome to peace talks that was clearly to Israel's disadvantage?

"Is that the gospel as far as you are concerned?" Mr Dayan countered on being reminded that the concept of a Palestinian national home had been coined by President Carter.

Egypt, he noted, advocates a Palestinian State and an Israeli withdrawal from all occupied territories, whereas Israel continues to oppose both demands.

Yet the two countries proposed to negotiate with one another and sound out a compromise or bridge of some kind or other — and to meet at the conference table without fulfilling prior conditions.

The leeway open to negotiations must not, Bonn was firmly told, be rendered even narrower than it already is by anticipating what may or may not be deemed a desirable outcome.

This country, Mr Dayan advised, must content itself with recommendations of a general nature and not try "to solve problems by itself and tell us what we ought to be doing."

Both President Sadat and the Israeli government, he claimed, had been taken aback by the US attempt to reactivate the Soviet Union on the Middle East and coordinate American policy with the Kremlin.

Israel's Foreign Minister did not go so far as to say that US and Soviet declarations on the Middle East had run counter to joint Egyptian-Israeli interests or given rise to shared feelings of anxiety.

President Sadat, he nonetheless felt emboldened to state, now wants to negotiate the terms of a peace treaty directly with his erstwhile adversary rather than await the outcome of the Geneva conference.

Having been so frank about the two sides in the Middle East going it alone in their efforts to arrive at a peace settlement, Mr Dayan was no less outspoken about recognition of the PLO as spokesman for the Palestinians.

"We have no intention," he commented, "of sitting at the same table as murderers."

Peter Hopen

(Bremer Nachrichten, 1 December 1977)

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Italian Premier Giulio Andreotti conferring with Bonn Chancellor Helmut Schmidt at Valeggio, near Verona, on 1 December. (Photo: dpa)

Back to serenity for ties with Italy

Relations with Italy have regained their customary serenity after a tempestuous interlude prompted by the escape from a military hospital in Rome of former SS officer Herbert Kappler.

Chancellor Schmidt and Premier Andreotti, who met in Valeggio, near Verona, on 1 December, cordially testified to the end of a lengthy trough of low pressure.

Ties had already taken a turn for the better, with German misdeeds, actual and imaginary, no longer occasioning indignant headlines.

Economic and social problems have returned to the fore, exerting their usual relentless pressure on the hard-pressed fabric of Italian society.

Giulio Andreotti sounded the right note with his comment that "we must look to the future, not forgetting the past but not allowing it to predispose us either."

He and Herr Schmidt were nonetheless glossing over the immediate past in claiming that recent discord had been sounded solely by peripheral elements.

Many prominent public figures, not to mention most leading newspapers, made common cause against Bonn in the Kappler affair.

Not by any stretch of the imagination can people and opinion-makers such as these be deemed peripheral elements in a democratic country such as Italy.

The excitement has since subsided and Italian newspapers now cover events in this country as objectively as they do goings-on in Britain, France or the United States.

It is only fair to add that Italian public opinion was rightly indignant when leading politicians in this country took it upon themselves to comment in public on how Italy might be better governed.

Gradually the Italian public are coming to realise that Germans may have views different from their own on issues such as law and order without necessarily deserving suspicions of a Nazi resurgence.

This country too would do well to stop and think. Trenchant foreign criticism of goings-on here, especially when they admit of comparison with the Nazi era, cannot simply be dismissed with a wave of the hand or a comment to the effect that people should mind their own business.

In Italy all shades of political opinion from Liberals to Communists are united in their support of the erstwhile Resistance.

What is more, the Italians are temperamentally disposed to countenance individual freedom to an extent that in this country would be considered tantamount to chaos.

If these lessons have been learnt, then

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Brandt to meet Brezhnev

SPD chairman Willy Brandt, Bonn learnt to its surprise, will probably be conferring with Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev in Moscow on 16 December.

Mr Brezhnev, who has been due to revisit this country for the past eighteen months, is not now expected in Bonn before next spring.

According to an SPD spokesman details of Herr Brandt's stopover in Moscow are shortly to be finalised.

The Social Democratic leader will be flying via Moscow to Tokyo whre he is due to chair a 17 December meeting of the Socialist International.

Herr Brandt and Mr Brezhnev will presumably be discussing the Soviet leader's forthcoming visit to Bonn, disarmament, further progress on detente and at the North-South talks between industrialised and developing countries.

Commentators also expect Willy Brandt to try and clear the air in preparation for Mr Brezhnev's visit. He will no doubt attach special importance to Berlin and the MBFR talks in Vienna, which are making little headway at present.

At the recent Social Democratic party conference in Hamburg Chancellor Schmidt reiterated his eager anticipation of the Soviet leader's visit.

Helmut Schmidt likewise hopes that talks will result in progress at the Vienna troop cut conference table.

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 30 November 1977)

■ FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Arms race increasingly futile

No one will have foreseen nearly thirty years ago that Nato and the Warsaw Pact would still be going strong a generation later, armed to their deterrent teeth.

Even after eight years of detente an end to the bloc system remains the most distant of prospects.

Contrary to expectations in some quarters East-West talks in the detente era have led not to a relaxation of military and diplomatic cohesion within the two blocs; consolidation would be the apter epithet.

In military terms neither side can defeat the other. Imbalances may constantly recur but are offset on both sides by other factors.

The East, for instance, may retain numerical superiority in tanks but this is offset by the swift expansion of Nato's anti-tank weaponry.

The latest commensurate development is that Nato's aerial defences are to be modernised to counter the Warsaw Pact threat, while a distinctly less sanguine view is now being taken of Soviet naval expansion over the past fifteen years.

In the nuclear sector, on the other hand, America's technological superiority is so great that it threatened to put paid to the Salt and MBFR talks.

In the conduct of foreign policy individual Nato countries have always retained more leeway than their Eastern Bloc counterparts, but since 1966 consultations among Nato governments have grown increasingly sophisticated.

Coordination of policies pursued by the fifteen member-governments represented on the North Atlantic Council has proved so successful that the West seems to have been the principal beneficiary of the Helsinki Agreement.

Moscow may have first mooted a conference on security and cooperation in Europe but over the past couple of years the West has really gone to town on Basket Two, the human rights package at Helsinki.

There have been times when both the United States and other Nato countries have not taken their consultation agreements too seriously, but success at the CSCE conferences in Geneva, Helsinki and Belgrade has been most encouraging.

Smaller Nato countries are well aware that if they were to pull out of the North Atlantic pact they would forfeit both information and an opportunity to bring influence to bear on the course of world affairs.

On the other side of the ideological divide everyone in Eastern Europe appreciates that a modicum of social and economic deviation from the Soviet model will only be permitted on the understanding that membership of the Warsaw Pact remains unquestioned.

Social change in a number of European Nato member-countries is a distinct possibility but increasingly unlikely to lead to a break-up of the North Atlantic pact.

Eurocommunism is increasingly parting company with the Eastern Bloc brand of Communism. In a bid for electoral support it is obliged to embrace the Western tradition of individual freedom.

The arms race has brought neither of the two sides superiority in any sector. It has not brought them any other advantage either.

The other side's military might and its potential as a political thumbscrew are far too great for either side to give unilateral disarmament serious consideration.

Both blocs have proved so durable that the two sides seem to be arriving at the conclusion that the time has come to take the Salt and MBFR talks seriously.

Erich Hauser

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 30 November 1977)

Willy Brandt names members of North-South commission

Willy Brandt, whose speciality detente must surely be, is to make a further sortie into world affairs as chairman of an independent commission on international development issues.

He agreed to chair the commission in September and has now announced the names of his fellow-members.

The commission will, Social Democrat Brandt hopes, contribute towards a policy of balance and regulated coexistence between industrialised and developing countries.

Herr Brandt, who certainly knows his way around East-West affairs, has undertaken to devote much of his prestige and working day to an attempt to help solve the North-South conflict.

He is on record as calling the North-South conflict "*the* social issue of the late twentieth century." As in his *Ostpolitik* he has been advised by Egon Bahr.

This is the point at which comparisons can no longer be drawn. Chairman Brandt and his North-South commission will enjoy no executive power and no negotiation brief. They will rely on political and specialist prestige.

Early this year Robert McNamara, president of the World Bank, first suggested drafting compromise proposals to ease the bottleneck of North-South talks.

The upshot is Herr Brandt and his commission who will spend an estimated eighteen months compiling a report. What effect the report will have remains to be seen.

Willy Brandt himself would be more than satisfied if the commission's work *merely succeeded in bringing* about a peaceful change in the character of the conflict.

This will undoubtedly entail hard work and the continual exercise of powers of persuasion, these being virtually the sum total of the commission's stock in trade.

There is such a variety of interests not only between industrialised and developing countries but also between the poor and the very poor that compromise proposals are by no means tied to prove effective.

What is more, a large number of organisations are already concerned with development and aid. They are bound to be suspicious of the newcomer's motives.

Herr Brandt has tried to offset such suspicion in advance by means of consultations, particularly during his stay in New York for the UN General Assembly.

Willy Brandt is, moreover, firmly convinced of the possibility of transforming diametrically opposed clashes of interest into long-term interests held in common.

This optimism is reflected in the international composition of his sixteen-member commission, which will be backed by a ten- to twelve-man staff based in Geneva.

Commission members will range from cautious conservatives such as Britain's Edward Heath and ex-President Eduardo Frei of Chile to militant progressives Abdlatis Al-Hamad of Kuwait and Shridath Ramphal of Guayana.

They will have to put their heads together. We will know the outcome in eighteen months from now at the most.

Günter Geschke

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 4 December 1977)

Bonn plans Belgrade 'package'

Bonn is anxious to incorporate in the final document at the Belgrade conference a number of specific improvements in East-West ties.

The proposals on which this country is said to be particularly keen include reductions in passport fees, swifter processing of applications to reunite divided families and facilitate East-West marriages, cuts in compulsory foreign exchange transactions for visits to relatives on the other side of the Iron Curtain, technical improvements in commercial facilities and a better teleprinter network.

Bonn is also to suggest hosting a scientific gathering to be held some time next year with a view to improving East-West scientific cooperation.

The Federal government attaches special importance to a reference in the final document to bids to proscribe hostage-taking.

Whether any or all of these objectives will be attained is as yet a matter for conjecture, according to a member of the Bonn delegation.

The final round of negotiations is certainly expected to prove extremely tough, but this country will endeavour to combine a resolute stand on the issues at stake and moderation in the choice of words.

In an interim review CSCE experts in Bonn concluded on 29 November that the West has reason to be satisfied with the first round of Belgrade talks, which have now been concluded.

Contrary to Eastern Bloc intentions the implementation of the Helsinki accords has been discussed in detail, with due attention being paid to human rights violations.

The Soviet threat to walk out of the conference if further mention were made of human rights has turned out to be a mere bluff.

Cooperation between Common Market and Nato member-countries has been smooth and successful, this country feels. There have been no clashes of opinion within the West, progress being coordinated and roles allotted.

In the second stage of the Belgrade conference 81 proposals for inclusion in the final document have been tabled for consideration, with one third each being submitted by the East, the West and the neutrals.

If Stage Two and the final drafting session fail to arrive at specific improvements Bonn feels a clear mention must be made of who is to blame for the failure.

This country has no desire to see the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe institutionalised. It would nonetheless like to see progress on multilateral detente.

Bonn is accordingly prepared to agree to further follow-up conferences, the next of which could conceivably be held in 1980 or thereabouts.

Malta, Madrid and Vienna have all applied to host the next conference. The Eastern Bloc would prefer Vienna, the West Madrid.

Delegates from this country feel it to be highly unlikely that the Belgrade conference will be brought to a conclusion before the end of this year. It is sure to last until the end of January at least.

The West, it is noted, is by no means committed to conclude the proceedings on 15 February, and since the conference can only be concluded by mutual agreement it is in a position to influence deadlines.

Members of the Bonn delegation have particularly welcomed the close ties with the conference maintained by the Bundestag. All three parliamentary parties have sent delegations of their own to take stock of the Belgrade talks.

The human rights documentation compiled by the CDU/CSU, Bonn's Christian Democrat Opposition, has been checked by the Foreign Office and used as background material by the conference delegation.

Bernt Conrad

(Die Welt, 30 November 1977)

Vietnam aid pact to include West Berlin

A Vietnamese government delegation is currently in Bonn to negotiate the terms of an aid agreement which must, Bonn insists, include West Berlin.

Provided Hanoi agrees to the inclusion of West Berlin in an agreement with the Federal Republic of Germany the draft could be ready for initialling by the New Year, according to a spokesman for the Economic Cooperation Ministry.

The spokesman stressed that Bonn will remain adamant on the inclusion of West Berlin in the agreement — a point on which Vietnam has already indicated readiness to make concessions.

The Vietnamese delegation is headed by Nguyen Van Kha, Premier Pham Van Dong's special envoy, and will spend ten days in this country.

(Die Welt, 29 November 1977)

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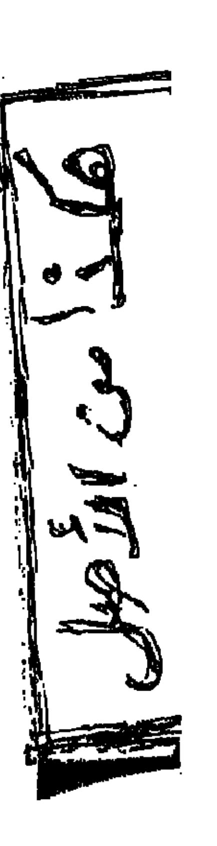
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■ HOME AFFAIRS

Party-political malaise raises prospect of new alignments

There has been much talk and speculation over the last few months about the founding of a fourth, a fifth or even a sixth would-be major political party in this country.

What would happen if such a party, or such parties, were to be founded? There is clearly considerable discontent in and with the present party landscape.

Leading members of Franz Josef Strauss's Bavarian CSU keep reminding their partners in the CDU of a conference decision, later reversed, by the terms of which the Christian Democrats' Bavarian wing decided to go it alone.

The CSU wants the CDU to start thinking now about strategies which will win them both the next general election.

'Red Jochen' Steffen is moving further and further away from the SPD of which he was once such a prominent member in Schleswig-Holstein and on the SPD's national executive. He is toying with the idea of a "socialist alternative" which would include among its members such prominent figures as Günter Wallraff, Oskar Negt, Martin Niemöller and Helmut Gollwitzer. The names of Rudi Dutschke and Wolf Biermann have also been mentioned in this connection.

The *Bundesverband Bürgerinitiativen Umweltschutz* (Federal Association of Citizens' Action Groups against Environmental Pollution) is considering widening its programme so that it could take part in the next general election as an ecological party.

There is little doubt that things are moving on the party-political scene and that cornerstones are being shaken, even if things have not yet gone beyond the theoretical to the organisational stage.

Does this mean that there is a kind of subterranean continental drift going on which could represent a serious challenge to the four established parties which have, up to now, been considered unassailable?

At first sight this question appears surprising if not wholly out of place in the wake of the SPD and FDP party conferences. Have not Social Democratic leaders in Hamburg and FDP leaders in Kiel shown that they are capable of holding their respective parties together?

Left-wingers in both parties were warned by Helmut Schmidt and Willy Brandt, Hans-Dietrich Genscher and Otto Graf Lambsdorff that they will have to toe the line if the coalition parties are to hold on to the reins of government in Bonn.

Has the Left not accepted these admonitions with its tail between it its legs?

Certainly, the Bonn government can now govern. The Social and Free Democratic coalition has moved rather more towards the centre and thereby gained stability.

Yet to conclude from this improved position that the future is going to be unproblematic and that the SPD and FDP will be able to work together harmoniously until 1980, if not longer, would be premature. It could even be dangerous, bordering on self-delusion. Why?

1. It cannot be denied that both SPD and FDP have achieved a greater degree of integration, but they have done so at the price of a loss of political profile. If this loss of profile reaches a certain upper limit, and according to a number of progressives in both parties conference decisions showed that this limit has already been reached, then integration is again in jeopardy.

2. The Social and Free Democratic coalition government now has more room for manoeuvre in its practical politics, because the SPD and the FDP party-political conferences have not tied the coalition down to a specific course of action on matters such as atomic energy, economic growth and unemployment. This lack of a clear-cut programme cannot blind us to the existence of serious problems for which adequate solutions have yet to be found.

3. The room for manoeuvre the government has won may be enough for day-to-day political work. Yet the government is dependent on Bundesrat cooperation in a number of key areas and ultimately this means it is dependent on the CDU/CSU Opposition, which has a majority in the Bundesrat.

This means that compromises will have to be made which will put the loyalty of the coalition parties to severe tests in the future.

4. Much, it accordingly follows, will depend on the kind of policies the government pursues in these circumstances. If the government's ability to justify policies rationally and politically falls below a certain level the authority of both the Bonn government and the SPD and FDP will be in danger and their support among the general public will also decline.

Loss of contour, inability to solve the main political problems, lack of plausibility and credibility of government decisions could combine to create a social and psychological climate which would favour the foundation of new parties.

On the other hand, cross-section surveys carried out by Mannheim psephologist Professor Wildemann and his Election Research Group indicate that the opposite is the case.

A number of interesting facts and perspectives emerge from this poll for the Bonn Opposition in general and for Opposition leader Helmut Kohl in particular.

Only one in five CDU/CSU voters gave Helmut Kohl top marks in this poll, held in October before the successful Mogadishu raid on a hijacked Lufthansa jet, whereas half the SPD supporters questioned gave Helmut Schmidt top marks.

The SPD achieved the best result of all — 96 per cent of SPD voters judged their party's performance positive. CDU and FDP came joint second with 93 per cent each and the CSU came third with 82 per cent.

But whereas the FDP was mainly judged positive even by supporters of other parties and every third CDU/CSU voter judged the SPD to be positive, in the case of the CSU the picture was very different.

Eighty-five per cent of SPD voters and 68 per cent of FDP voters judged the CSU to be negative to very negative. CSU chairman Strauss was given minus five, the lowest mark, by one in three SPD voters and one in five FDP supporters.

Several conclusions can be drawn from this poll. One is that Helmut Kohl has not managed to establish his claim to leadership even within the ranks of the CDU/CSU. This is the only conceivable explanation for his poor showing.

The fact that only 58 per cent of his own voters are satisfied with the Bonn Opposition's performance also speaks against him. (Eighty per cent of SPD supporters and 75 per cent of FDP supporters were satisfied with their parties' performance.)

The fact that the standing of the FDP is so high, even among non-Liberal voters, shows that its coalition with the SPD in Bonn and with the CDU in Lower Saxony and the Saar has done it no harm. It therefore has no reason to consider a change of coalition.

Furthermore, the extremely negative response of SPD and FDP voters to Franz Josef Strauss shows that the CDU and CSU with Herr Strauss have little room for manoeuvre when it comes to possible coalition permutations.

Given all these factors, the CDU and the CSU might be well advised to fight separate campaigns in the 1980 general election and then join fores to defeat the Social and Free Democratic coalition.

There are at least five good reasons for such a twofold strategy and the fact that Herr Strauss has chosen to stand for Bavarian state prime minister indicates that the strategy may even have entered its first phase:

1. Helmut Kohl could get rid of an awkward rival for the leadership of the CDU/CSU. Franz Josef Strauss is a man who is capable of severely denting Herr Kohl's image and leadership at any time — as his journey to Chile, words of praise for the Pinochet regime and his slamming of the CDU economic policy paper demonstrate all too clearly.

2. Without Herr Strauss and the alliance with the Bavarian CSU, pressure for unity within the CDU, which has been partly responsible for a blurring of the Opposition line in the Bundestag, would be reduced, and increased pressure could be brought to bear on the government.

3. As Bavarian Premier, Herr Strauss would be holding state office for the first time since 1969. This could limit his destructive potential, though it would give him plenty of opportunity to cultivate his political profile in the Bundesrat.

4. Even if the CSU gave up its plans to campaign throughout the country as a fourth party, this would not prevent it from declaring Franz-Josef Strauss the CSU's candidate for the Chancellorship in Bavaria. Assuming that the CDU and CSU won the election, Kohl and Strauss would then have to work this problem out in coalition negotiations after the pou.

5. If, for reasons of policy or personality, the CDU/CSU could not form a coalition or if their joint majority were not enough to form a government, a CDU without Herr Strauss would be in a better position to form a coalition with the FDP or the SPD.

Apart from the open question of whether the CDU/CSU would win or lose more votes by such a double strategy, an operation of this kind would be unpopular and potentially dangerous for reasons of State.

Any such strategy would undermine the two-party system we have had in this country for the last thirty years.

On the other hand, there is no denying that the party-political alternatives this system offers at the moment have seen far better days. What other explanation is there for the general dissatisfaction with the parties inside parliament and out?

Another point worth noting is that from the election of Konrad Adenauer in 1949 to the election of Willy Brandt, the first Social Democratic Chancellor, twenty years later the CDU were the main governing party.

This is a very long time and such predominance is unhealthy in a parliamentary democracy. It could well be that the SPD/FDP coalition night remain in government for eleven years, or even fifteen, if they won the next election.

Meantime, the people of this country are increasingly dissatisfied with the State and with the political parties. Partly because of the pressures for party unity in Bonn, this country's political system is showing signs of petrifaction.

A fourth party, which would perhaps be followed by a fifth and then a sixth, could liven up the political scene and give minorities more say. It would arguably be a return to the traditional German party system, though this does not mean that Bonn would go the same way as Weimar.

Dirk Bavendamm

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 4 December 1977)

Strauss lashes out at Schmidt

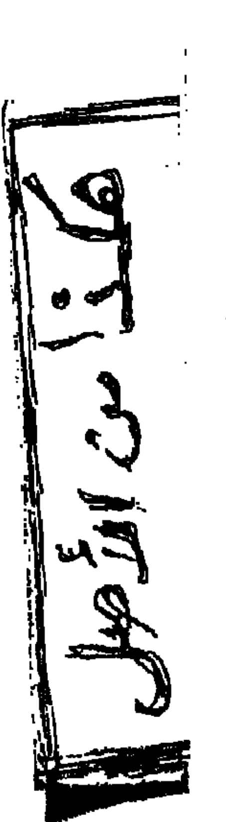
CSU party chairman Franz Josef Strauss has accused Chancellor Schmidt of "moral and intellectual confusion and aberration." In an article in *Bayernkurier*, the CSU weekly, on 30 November Herr Strauss says that the public know that "this Schmidt, who wants to give lessons on political style, has about as much right to do so as a night-club owner has to preach on morals."

Herr Strauss was referring to the Chancellor's remark that he was sick and tired of the CSU leader's habit of lavishing praise on foreign dictatorships on the one hand and continually criticising our own democratic system on the other.

Herr Strauss addresses the Chancellor directly and, referring to his Chilean visit, writes: "If you were to use the high intelligence so often attributed to you to get a true picture of the facts in Chile, you might begin to understand that you simply cannot afford to whitewash revolutionary Marxists and to describe soldiers, who may have their faults but are acting on the wishes of parliament, as criminals."

The CSU leader goes on to say that Schmidt of all people, "who also has a political past to overcome," should beware of playing the part of a teacher of morals. Helmut Schmidt, he says, is like a "cowboy who always shoots from the hip, making a lot of noise but missing the target."

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 1 December 1977)



■ SECURITY

Stammheim suicide threats not taken seriously

A week before the suicides of urban guerrillas Andreas Baader, Gudrun Ensslin and Jan-Carl Raspe in Stammheim gaol, Stuttgart, a police expert and a psychiatrist warned the prison authorities that the Baader-Meinhof prisoners' suicide threats ought to be taken seriously. The prison authorities chose not to heed these warnings.

This emerges from evidence given to the Stuttgart state assembly commitee of enquiry set up to establish what happened at Stammheim by psychiatrist and senior prison doctor Helmut Henck and police superintendant Alfred Kraus of the terrorist squad at the *Bundeskriminalamt*, or Federal CID.

Herr Klaus, who has been working in the anti-terrorist department since 1973 and had several talks with the prisoners during the contact ban, attached considerable importance to Baader's warning that the prisoners would make "an irreversible decision in hours or days."

Suicide threats by Baader-Meinhof prisoners recur constantly. When Gudrun Ensslin and others were on hunger-strike, a circular was found in which she said there would have to be one death every three weeks "until the solitary confinement stops."

Referring to his talk with Baader on October 8 in which the guerilla leader threatened to commit suicide, Klaus said: "This was the first time I thought he really meant it."

It was clear to him that suicide "was at least a serious option" if outside efforts to get the prisoners released failed. He knew that the contact ban had been broken several times and assumed that the prisoners would be able to communicate with one another.

Supt. Klaus added that the prisoners were in an "extreme situation" in which the only alternatives were freedom or death. It was obvious they would have wanted to act collectively. This is why Herr Klaus considered these suicide threats "a more real danger than previous ones."

Alfred Klaus conceded that he had found no evidence of suicidal intentions in his last talk with Baader.

Baader criticised the brutality of the Lufthansa hijackers and Klaus believed there was a "certain amount of sincerity" in his criticism.

Klaus described the suicides as a "last stand." He said they were a sign for the prisoners' conrades to take up and continue the struggle outside.

Prison doctor Helmut Henck said that he realised there was an acute danger of suicide when he spoke to Raspe on October 6. Raspe was obviously depressed about the contact ban and hinted at the possibility of suicide with tears in his eyes.

Raspe was usually distant and composed and this sudden change led him to report to the prison governor that Raspe was in "an extremely depressive state" and was "clearly prepared to commit suicide."

This was followed by the unhelpful proposal that the prisoner should be put in a padded cell.

Dr Henck strongly denied prison records stating that the general opinion in the prison was that for the time being nothing could be done. He said he had several times complained about the prison authorities saying "I don't know who takes decisions here" and "I can find no excuse for this negligence."

Dr Henck went on to say that at the end of September he had suggested the prisoners be split up and sent to different prisons to prevent them from taking collective action. He had received no reply to this proposal.

At the beginning of August, independent doctors had said that the prisoners had "a death wish brought about by despair." Two days later, Raspe talked of the possibility of a collective suicide.

When Baader talked of the same possibility on October 10, Dr Henck took the two threats very seriously. He then spoke to the prison governor and mentioned suicide threats by Gudrun Ensslin, to which the governor replied that he (Henck) should not "talk of the devil."

Cross-examination of Dr Henck and of Willi Reuschenbach, head of the prison department at the Ministry of Justice, revealed that Dr Henck was isolated within the prison because his views clashed with those of the prison authorities.

Herr Reuschenbach said that he had been opposed to the special treatment given to the Baader-Meinhof prisoners whereas Dr Henck had inisted that they were medically necessary.

On several occasions Dr Henck criticised the prison authorities' attitude to and treatment of the prisoners ("I consider the psychiatrist, and not lawyers, to be the best person to decide in these matters.").

Helmut Henck had several times angrily complained that Stammheim "was a complete washout and not a prison."

Horst Bubeck, chief warder in the Baader-Meinhof section of the prison, said that the hole in Baader's cell discovered some time ago was not a hiding place for a gun.

According to Herr Bubeck the hole was caused by a hook on the bed frame rubbing against the wall. This hole was immediately plastered up to prevent Baader from contacting Gudrun Ensslin, who was in the next cell.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 30 November 1977)

Arms search at Stammheim gaol

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

The Baader-Meinhof inmates of Stammheim gaol, Stuttgart, were obviously well armed. A considerable amount of explosives, detonators and two revolvers have been found.

The third gun, another revolver, was discovered recently by specialists from Baden-Württemberg state CID who, together with explosives experts from the Federal Border Patrol, are now pulling down the cell walls.

Andreas Baader and Jan-Carl Raspe shot themselves with the first two guns.

Guntram Palm, who became Baden-Württemberg Minister of Justice after Traugott Bender's resignation, ordered walls and floors to be removed after the first finds in the prison. This will take about fourteen days at least. Discovery of the third revolver was only made public four days after it was found.

The revolver was in a cell which had been used for a while by Helmut Pohl. Pohl was transferred to Stammheim in July on medical advice. He was sentenced to five years' imprisonment in 1976 for membership of a terrorist conspiracy and is now in prison in Hamburg.

In mid-August Pohl and three other prisoners who had been transferred from Hamburg were removed from Stammheim after a scuffle with prison warders. Pohl's cell had not been used recently.

ddp

(Kölner Stadt-Anezíger, 23 November 1977)

Ties with Italy

Continued from page 1

the recriminations of recent months will not have been exchanged in vain.

Helmut Schmidt and Giulio Andreotti, who already held each other in high esteem, have got to know each other even better. Six hours spent talking in private is a long time for busy politicians.

The outcome was nothing spectacular, mind you. Herr Schmidt found words of praise for his host's successful anti-inflationary measures.

Signor Andreotti in return called on firms in this country to step up investment in Italy.

The tenor of this encounter between the two leaders is far more significant than the four simultaneous bomb raids on offices of German companies in Rome. Four may seem a large number but the bomb-throwers have never been more than peripheral elements in the broader context of Italian society, representing no one apart from their own small groups of political extremists.

Horst Schlitter

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 5 December 1977)

Alleged terrorist Verena Becker on trial in Stuttgart

The trial of 25-year-old telephonist Verena Becker by the Fifth Senate of the Supreme State Court has begun at Stammheim, Stuttgart.

Miss Becker is accused of the attempted murder of six policeman at the time of her arrest in Singen, near the Swiss border, on 3 May of this year. She is also charged with membership of a terrorist conspiracy led by former lawyer Siegfried Haag.

The Haag Gang is believed to be responsible for the murders of state prosecutor Siegfried Buback, Frankfurt banker Jürgen Ponto and industrialist Hanns-Martin Schleyer. Verena Becker is also accused of robbery.

Verena Becker was arrested with Günter Sonnenberg, who is believed to be one of the murderers of Siegfried Buback. A woman in a café phoned the police thinking that Sonnenberg was Knut Folkerts (since arrested in Utrecht). Verena Becker and Günter Sonnenberg immediately opened fire when police appeared on the scene.

Sonnenberg was shot in the head and has since been given neuro-surgical and psychiatric treatment. He is not yet in a fit state to appear in court, and so will be tried separately. Verena Becker was only shot in the foot and has now recovered.



Verena Becker (Photo: Sven Simon)

The police did not realise how dangerous Verena Becker was for some time. She first appeared on their wanted lists after the attack on the British forces' yacht club in Gatow, Berlin, on 2 February 1972, when a bomb hidden in a fire extinguisher exploded, killing boat-builder Herr Beelitz. Miss Becker was 19 at the time.

In 1974, she was sentenced to six years imprisonment for her part in the Berlin attack and in six bank robberies. She emerged as a hard-core member of the 2 June terrorist movement when her name appeared on the list of prisoners to be released in exchange for kidnapped Berlin CDU leader Peter Lorenz.

Verena Becker was released and flown to South Yemen along with four other prisoners. Police assume that Becker was "reactivated" by Siegfried Haag when he visited a guerilla training camp in South Yemen in auttumn 1976.

The exact nature of Haag's connections with this Arab State only became clear after Becker and Sonnenberg were arrested in Singen, where they were probably both trying to escape over the Swiss border.

The two had travelled to Singen on an express train from Essen. A few days previously, Verena Becker had been seen in Zürich, where she had hired and brought back a car.

Verena Becker is also accused of taking part in the murder of state prosecutor Buback. This, however, is not part of the Stammheim trial.

The main proceedings have been scheduled to last fifteen days. Thirty-five witnesses and eight experts are to give evidence.

The accused's defence counsel, Helmut Funke, has already criticised the court for trying to cram the proceedings into such a short space of time.

Jörg Bischoff

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 23 November 1977)

■ TRADE

Gatt sounds pessimistic note on free trade prospects

Gatt, the guardian of free world trade, is anything but optimistic as to the future. In its latest annual report, Gatt emphatically warns that protectionist pressure in many member nations has reached such proportions as to seriously jeopardise international trade as currently conducted.

Granted, there is still a certain consensus at international conferences that a relapse into protectionism must be prevented come what may. It is generally agreed that a possible worldwide depression must not be permitted to lead to a general trade war.

Says Wilhelm Haferkamp, vice-president of the EEC Commission: "The verbal fight against protectionism is frequently at odds with both reality and the numerous attempts at curtailing free international trade."

Herr Haferkamp's experience is now being confirmed once more by America's efforts to curtail steel imports from Japan and Europe.

But notwithstanding all solemn declarations, the European Community, too, is anything but innocent on this score. The Brussels Commission has for years been pursuing an extremely protectionist agricultural policy; and only last July, yielding to French pressure, it agreed to extend curbs on textile imports, unilaterally decreed by Paris, to the whole of the Community.

There can be no disputing that the unprecedented international trade boom in close to thirty years of prosperity after the Second World War would not have been possible had world trade not rid itself of the destructive ties of chauvinism and protectionism that reigned supreme in the thirties, as pointed out in Gatt Study No. 5, due to be published shortly.

But even so, advocates of a liberal trade policy are hard-pressed to preserve liberalism in times of unemployment and structural adaptation.

The authors of the study therefore in no way find it surprising that today, "in the face of the worst economic crisis in forty years, efforts at still further reducing trade barriers are not only flagging; voices calling for more protectionism are in fact becoming louder and louder."

But so far most governments have withstood pressure exerted by lobbies and various interest groups, and only in isolated cases have there been serious breaches of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Even in the United States, where the President has for years been subjected to massive pressure by industry (be it the shoe manufacturers or the motor industry or what-have-you), demanding that he curb imports from the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan and other countries by imposing restrictions, most such attacks have so far been repulsed.

Says Oliver Long, secretary-general of Gatt: "Up to now we have had neither a general relapse into protectionism nor is there any immediate danger of such a disaster taking place."

Nevertheless, Mr Long calls for utmost vigilance, pointing out that there have been repeated overt and covert infringements of Gatt regulations since 1974 which, according to Gatt statisticians, have given rise to a situation in which between three and five per cent of previously unimpeded world trade (involving goods to the tune of between DM65,000 million and DM110,000 million) are now hampered in one form or another.

But major trade impediments have so far been prevented because memories of the rapidly escalating trade war during the prewar Depression are still with us. As a result, the weak spot where the dam gave way in the thirties is still being closely watched.

But this general vigilance has been unable to prevent the dyke from being severely eroded in two other spots.

There is for instance the attempt to circumvent Gatt regulations by the expedient of, while not imposing selective import curbs, nevertheless inducing trading partners to impose "voluntary" export curbs.

This "orderly marketing" (as it is euphemistically called) or "organised liberalism" does not formally violate international agreements, thus making it difficult for those affected to retaliate by imposing restrictive measures.

But in all other ways such practices have the same negative effects on exporters and consumers as do conventional imports restrictions — and like the latter they contribute nothing towards eliminating the roots of the crisis.

Thus for instance, having in 1975 undertaken to curb their steel exports, to the European Community, the Japanese in the very same year stepped up steel exports to the United States by 35 per cent.

This not only put their European competitors in a spot where the American market is concerned, but also gave rise to a violent reaction in the United States.

The result was that, having last year already imposed import quotas for special steels, the United States is now threatening to impose similar restrictions on steel imports in general.

The latest annual report of Gatt illustrates how dangerous it can be to attempt to help an ailing industry by curbing supply and raising prices by administrative measures.

The report says: "The connection between protective measures for one industry and the loss of jobs in another becomes particularly conspicuous when the 'protected' product constitutes a major cost factor for other industries."

Steel, the price of which is now being manipulated by the EEC Commission as well as by individual governments, is a good example. Gatt therefore points out, and rightly so, that there is an irreconcilable conflict between the attempt to improve the steel industry's profits and efforts to promote industry in general.

The second — and hitherto barely recognised — danger confronting the global division of labour is that traditional protectionism is being replaced more and more by subsidy measures.

Since many governments, bearing in mind their international obligations and the disastrous consequences of thirties-style protectionism, are wary of direct trade restrictions as a means of protecting ailing industries, they are more and more providing them with various subsidies as a means of survival.

And since no country can stand by idly while domestic industry is put out of the running by less efficient but more heavily-subsidised competitors abroad, a breakneck subsidy race is now in progress in many sectors of industry.

One of the most telling examples in this connection is the shipbuilding industry. The Shipbuilders Association, Hamburg, terms the subsidy edge enjoyed by foreign yards one of the major reasons for the malaise besetting domestic shipyards.

In order to keep domestic yards, which had to lay off 5,000 workers in the first ten months of this year, above water, Bonn Transport Minister Kurt Gscheidle promised to increase this year's promotional programme for the shipbuilding industry to DM450 million. This would enable the yards to build 165 merchant vessels at a discount of 17.5 per cent.

Moreover, the Ministry for Economic Cooperation is providing another DM140 million for the export of ships to developing nations. Additional assistance is being provided by the coastal states — Lower Saxony, Bremen, Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein.

But even such joint efforts cannot guarantee the survival of shipyards in this country as long as other shipbuilding nations subsidise their yards even more heavily.

World trade ties

1976 exports in thousand million dollars

Industrialised countries: 459 trade within bloc

with industrialised countries 183 · 148 with developing countries · with Eastern Bloc 36

with industrialised countries 28

Developing countries: 55 trade within bloc · with developing countries 15 · with Eastern Bloc 10

East Bloc and China: 52 trade within bloc

Quelle DIW

British yards have just landed a Polish order for 24 ships worth £115 million. This was only possible because the British government was prepared to pay £25 million in subsidies.

In the final analysis this means that Poland will in future be able to compete with British shipowners by using ships for which more than one-fifth of the cost has been financed by the British taxpayer.

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Paris, has recently demonstrated to the major shipbuilding nations that this pointless competition could easily cost them more than DM200,000 million in the next seven years, not counting subsidies that might become necessary in order to alleviate the consequences of such a policy.

The Shipowners Association is already, in its annual report for 1977, lamenting the fact of excess shipping capacities throughout the world. "Measures to reduce tonnage," says the report, "cannot keep pace with new construction by an embattled shipbuilding industry."

In other words, what has been built up via government subsidies must now be eliminated by means of financial incentives to commit ships to the breaker's yard.

This support for businesses in dire straits, which has also been endorsed by the Bonn government in its latest subsidies report ("largely for labour market reasons"), has already led to worldwide distortions in other sectors of the economy.

Thus for instance, the general manager of the Iron and Steel Manufacturers Association, Herbert W. Köhler, laments: "The German steel industry, which is the most productive in Europe, might be forced to implement the most stringent curtailment of its production capacity."

The reason for this is that Italy's and Britain's steel industries are nationalised and that their losses are offset by government funds, while France and Belgium are also pumping enormous amounts of money into their ailing steel mills.

The desperate situation of domestic steel concerns is to no mean extent due to the fact that modernisation and streamlining have, in the past, been prevented through state intervention in order to "preserve jobs." As a result the steel giants have been particularly hard hit by the worldwide crisis in their industry.

In order to prevent the German steel industry from being dislodged from world markets by more generously subsidised competitors abroad, and in order to prevent thousands of redundancies, North Rhine-Westphalia's Social Democrats, led by State Prime Minister Heinz Kühn, would like to assist the steel concerns by means of a subsidy to ease the burden of bank interest. A coke subsidy is also under consideration.

President Carter would also like to provide millions of dollars in subsidies in order to help America's steel industry to modernise.

Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, speaking to works council members in the Ruhr area, warned that such subsidies first have to flow into government coffers as tax revenue before the State can lend a helping hand."

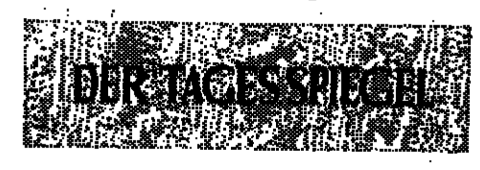
But even so, he intends to discuss with steel managers and union bosses how this particular industry, struggling to hold its own in the worldwide subsidies race, can be kept on its feet.

Aid to competitors by foreign governments, above all in Italy where the

Continued on page 7

■ ECONOMIC TRENDS

'Five Wise Men' forecast slow growth next year



Our economists are clearly worried. Only last year optimism was still the keynote of economic research institutes' reports and the Bonn government's council of economic advisers, dubbed the Five Wise Men.

But now, with winter upon us, pessimism prevails. The repeated necessity in recent months to amend forecasts — and not to the better — has taught our economic crystal ball gazers a lesson.

So it is not surprising that the forecasts of the economic research institutes and the Five Wise Men for next year anticipate a very cautious three-per-cent growth rate. The growth rate in 1978 would thus be the same as that of 1977, which was a disappointing year.

There can be no doubt that the forecasts have become more realistic; they are once more geared to realities rather than to wishful thinking.

Orders are slow coming in, production capacities are unutilised, profits are stagnating or indeed diminishing. All these have lately become factors with which economists have to reckon.

There is an air of helplessness permeating their work. Thus for instance — as a basis for future, more accurate, forecasts — the economists would dearly like to know why their handiwork went awry and how much of a role international conditions have played.

Reticence with regard to private investments is particularly puzzling in this context. The public at large is still awaiting clarification whether reluctance to invest is due to inadequate demand, to pessimism about future sales, to inadequate utilisation of production capacity or to unsatisfactory development in the production cost-profit ratio.

Our experts have taken a relatively easy way out by saying that a sound economic policy must be effective even if short-term economic forecasts prove wrong.

This is rather reminiscent of a dog chasing its own tail since any sound policy presupposes as accurate data and forecasts as possible.

And yet the latest report presented by the Five Wise Men is, apart from a cautious assessment of future economic developments, rather optimistic in its basic tenor. There can be no doubt that this report contains some remarkable pointers for the government's economic policy.

According to the Five Wise Men, fiscal policy with its numerous tax packages, booster shots and budgetary programmes totalling more than DM20,000 million has reached the limits of the feasible.

It is now up to the parties to collective bargaining, the Five say, to contribute their share. This is advice which has given rise to heated disputes and which is rejected out of hand by the trade unions.

But the arguments put forward by the economists are so convincing that it should prove difficult to come up with logical counter-arguments — and this applies above all to the much-vaunted income theory with regard to wages.

Argue the Five Wise Men: "If wage increases and the added production costs they entail are passed on to prices they not only reduce the added purchasing power of wage earners but also diminish *the hitherto existing purchasing* power of those whose incomes are independent of wages, such as old age pensioners, and as such they must of necessity weaken demand."

Even those who would like to brush aside as a would-be cure-all the recipe put forward by the Five Wise Men will find it hard to come up with convincing arguments against the recommendation that wage deals for next year should strictly orientate themselves to productivity increases.

But the position of the experts along the lines of the formula "full employment through more State and less work," if implemented, would reduce unemployment only temporarily.

The proposals of the Five Wise Men, which are based on a virtual moratorium on wage increases, are in keeping with the ideas of the employers, thus making them practically unacceptable to the trade unions.

But in the final analysis the trade unions will have to come to terms with the fact that sensible wage deals (after years of the very opposite) are gradually becoming essential — especially where future employment is concerned.

Moreover, with the cost-of-living increases having slowed down very considerably, the trade unions have been deprived of an important argument in support of demonstrative wage increases.

The parties to collective bargaining should now perhaps really give the advice of the Five Wise Men a try. Perhaps they could conclude wage deals with review clauses which would enable them to get together with management six or eight months hence and evaluate the effects.

There is yet another important aspect to be borne in mind. During the first ten months of 1977 the value of the deutschmark on foreign exchange markets has risen by 9.1 per cent compared with the same period last year.

While this is generally in keeping with the gradient of inflation and thus relatively unproblematic, the deutschmark has nevertheless undergone a fairly considerable revaluation in real terms by virtue of production costs.

The Five Wise Men expect that this effective revaluation of the deutschmark will continue in 1978. This is yet another reason to exercise maximum restraint in the forthcoming wage negotiations.

Or, putting it the other way around, the new round of wage negotiations must be heedful of effects on foreign trade.

Viewed in this light, the recent unrest on foreign exchange markets came just at the right time since the many aspects of wage policy with its direct effects on prices and employment also include the future competitiveness of our exports.

This is one more weighty reason why the advice of the Five Wise Men should be taken particularly seriously and why it should be heeded.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 27 November 1977)

Wage restraint or dole queue?

Wailing and gnashing of teeth by trade union leaders who claim that economic policy discussions in the Federal Republic of Germany have acquired the traits of a plot against the trade unions' wage policy is understandable but unjustified.

Take say, the concerted action talks in Bonn between representatives of the government and both sides of industry (paralysed at present since the unions are boycotting them) or, say, the political statements by industrial associations.

Take the economic research institutes or, indeed, the majority of the media. they have all for some time been demanding with overy-growing impatience that the distribution of income policy in this country be reviewed.

And now the "Five Wise Men" have joined the chorus, stressing that wage policy will have a decisive effect on economic growth and employment in 1978.

There can be no doubt that the trade unions are becoming more and more isolated. The connection between poorly-balanced distribution of income in recent years and the continued rise in unemployment figures is obvious to most economic policy-makers and observers.

It must be assumed that more and more workers, too, are becoming aware of this chain of cause and effect. And once the conviction gains ground that the trade unions consider themselves more the advocates of those who have a job than of those who no longer have one — and any worker of today can join the legion of the latter — confidence of labour in the unions could well be severely shaken.

This might of course suit many an opponent of organised labour. But those who are convinced that a society like ours cannot exist without strong trade unions and those who appreciate the unions' good work must view with concern their helplessness in the present tug-of-war about the distribution of incomes.

Union bosses realise that in negotiating wage deals they are not only bargaining about pay packets but also about the level of employment and that success on the one front could well be tantamount to defeat on the other.

But so far they have not drawn the only possible conclusion from this state of affairs, namely that lower wage deals would facilitate the employment of those without a job today. They fear that the rank and file would interpret this as weakness.

Economic forecasts are always chancy, and the Five Wise Men have been more than once burned and are therefore more than twice shy. But in general terms there can be no disputing their calculations: Only if more investments are rendered more profitable can unemployment be reduced, and wage deals play a major role in this respect.

There is much to indicate that going without nominal wage increases will earn the labour force higher incomes in real terms, namely by cutting cost-of-living increases. Many if not most workers accept this argument as plausible.

But it still seems as if most union bosses place their trust in the fascination emanating from bigger pay packets.

Dieter Piel

(Die Zeit, 25 November 1977)

Hard times ahead for trawlermen

Fresh fish supplies will shortly plummet and prices are bound to skyrocket. The trawlermen's main fishing grounds were barred as of 29 November, when the agreement between Bonn and Reykjavik expired.

The agreement permitted German trawlers to fish within Iceland's 200-mile economic zone for two years.

Up to now some two-thirds of our fresh fish came from Icelandic waters, and a new agreement between the EEC (which is unable to reach a common viewpoint) and Iceland is not yet in the offing.

The fishing industry anticipates several lean years. Both the fishing industry and wholesalers fear most detrimental effects on the market and on employment. They see the Sword of Damocles of high fixed costs and fishing ports that do not operate to capacity dangling above them.

Bonn is pressing for EEC decisions on catch quotas within EEC waters and with it on the provision of catch quotas to non-EEC member nations as a bargaining basis for the German fishing industry's rights to fish in their waters.

So far, politicians and representatives of the fishing industry see themselves unable to make any exact forecasts. As the Fishing Industry Association and fish wholesalers point out, all forecasts made in connection with the ban on herring fishing in the North Sea made since the middle of this year have been rendered obsolete time and again, with prices rising much more swiftly than anticipated.

According to the Bremerhaven trawlermen shipowners are seeking new fishing grounds and new types of fish for marketing. It is hoped that stocks in Icelandic waters will recover in two to four years due to improved protective measures, and that yields will increase accordingly.

Swift barter negotiations within the EEC and catch agreements with non-Community nations such as Iceland, Norway, the Soviet Union and the United States are sorely needed. But a shortfall in catches remains inevitable.

The quotas for German fishermen in EEC waters ought to be increased by sixty per cent. Figures mentioned so far are in the range of between 120,000 and 150,000 tons per annum.

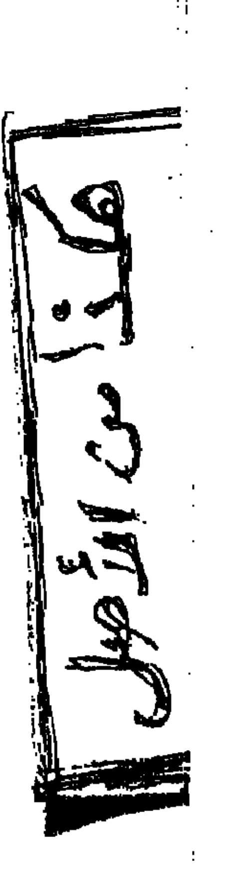
According to Bremen Senate, consumption in the Federal Republic of Germany amounts to 587,000 tons per annum.

The fishing industry and wholesalers demand that — in view of diminishing supplies — all import levies for fresh fish be abolished and that unity be achieved among the EEC nations and negotiations instituted.

It is also necessary to provide more consumer information, to be financed with public funds, on hitherto disregarded types of fish such as mackerel and capeling, which offer better catch prospects.

Gert-Dieter Böse

(Kieler Nachrichten, 28 November 1977)



■ MOTOR TRADE

Volkswagen record-bound in unprecedented boom

The four chimneys of the Volkswagen power station on the outskirts of Wolfsburg, the hallmark of Europe's largest automobile factory, are belching clouds of smoke into the November sky.

The pubs just outside the Wolfsburg VW plant are crowded to capacity as the shift changes, and the waitresses have a hard time keeping pace with orders.

The municipal coffers of Wolfsburg have this year been swelled by a handsome fifty million deutschmarks in revenues from VW's local taxes as Volkswagen enters the third year of an unprecedented boom.

Ekkehard Wesner, one of VW's press officers, speaks of a "consistently great demand for automobiles, primarily domestically but also in Sweden and Denmark."

Wolfsburg is headed for a new record, as managing director Toni Schmücker told the last AGM. By the end of the year more than 2.3 million vehicles will have left the company's assembly lines. VW's assembly plants throughout the world produce 8,900 automobiles every working day.

At German plants the great hit is still the *Rabbit*, followed by the *Passat*. The prototype, namely the *Beetle*, is receiving special treatment. In Europe the last *Beetles* will roll off the assembly lines at the end of this year in Emden.

Customers who then still want to buy "the world's most ubiquitous car" will have to make do with a vehicle made overseas. A first shipment of *Beetles* from Mexico is expected to arrive in Emden around mid-December.

Other assembly plants still producing the *Beetle* are in Nigeria, Brazil and South Africa. Only the *Beetle* convertible, which is made in Osnabrück, will still bear the hallmark "Made in Germany."

The changeover from the *Beetle* to more modern models, which cost the firm a packet, took place three years ago at the height of the worldwide automobile crisis.

VW reduced its staff by 23,000 on the basis of severance contracts at a cost of more than DM200 million. Turnover dropped to an all-time low, and worldwide stocks increased to 500 million units. In the period from 28 January 1974 to 7 February 1975 VW skipped 14 shifts and liquid assets dwindled to fifty million deutschmarks.

But in spring 1975 things gradually started looking up again and as of August VW's finance manager started writing his figures in black again. Many a former staff member who, only a few weeks earlier, had pocketed his severance pay was back at the personnel department, applying for re-employment. Today Volkswagen has again a staff of 103,000, of whom 50,000 work in Wolfsburg.

Reminisces Rudi Blank, chairman of the works council: "That time they laid off too many people too quickly."

The works council had at the time suggested a somewhat "milder" plan as an alternative to the concern's severance plan, but Herr Schmücker got the upper hand.

"In future," says Blank, "we shall maintain our standpoint more uncompromisingly."

By approving or opposing special shifts the works council, together with management, regulates the number of employees. Toni Schmücker terms this system a "middle-of-the-road personnel policy" and this policy is to remain in effect until 1985.

The management presents the works council with figures concerning orders and stocks, whereupon a lower limit to the payroll is agreed.

Some 6,500 new workers were employed by November 1977 along the lines of this procedure. This "middle-of-the-road" cooperation system has not meant that the works council has been disregarding the need for streamlining.

Staff representatives are not opposed to automation — not even the kind that does away with jobs — since, as Herr Blank put it, "the competition is not asleep and we must pay heed to what's happening in the United States and in Japan."

VW is shortly to employ an additional 2,500 staff members (virtually all of them in Wolfsburg), among them technical staff such as draughtsmen and engineers. These people are unavailable in Wolfsburg itself, and the works council has therefore asked the Federal Labour Office to look around nationwide.

Alas, young people and women are not benefiting from this boom. In the Wolfsburg area alone there are some 1,800 women and 480 young people unemployed.

For the staff, the automobile boom and their loyalty to the company have borne rewards in terms of hard cash. Having paid 96 per cent of a month's salary as an annual bonus in June, VW will pay another cash bonus in December to the tune of DM30 million.

Depending on the duration of his employment, every VW staff member will receive a Christmas bonus ranging between DM400 and DM1,300 plus two extra days' vacation.

The city of Wolfsburg is not profiting quite so much from the boom. But even so, tax revenue has risen from DM33 to DM77 million from 1975 to 1977.

Shortages in tax revenues were offset either by dipping into reserves or by borrowing. The rich city of Wolfsburg also had to fork out a considerable amount for the poorer rural municipalities which were incorporated into Wolfsburg in the course of local government reforms.

This means that indebtedness per capita has risen from DM 843 to DM 1,400 over the past four years.

Josef Schmidt

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 30 November 1977)

Vital statistics

As the domestic automobile boom continues there are signs that domestic demand for commercial vehicles has also become livelier of late.

This is claimed by the Motor Manufacturers Association, Frankfurt, in its latest monthly bulletin. Yet on the other hand foreign demand for German commercial vehicles has diminished.

According to the report, 371,000 motor vehicles were produced in the Federal Republic of Germany in October 1977 (October 1976: 361,739). Production of automobiles and station wagons, which amounted to 344,700 units, was four per cent higher than during the same period last year (322,480 units), with the number of working days being the same.

In September with its 22 working days the automobile and station wagon production was three per cent and 16,400 units higher than during the same period last year (21 working days).

In the commercial vehicle sector, output has diminished since the middle of the year both compared with the previous year as well as in comparison with the first half of the current year.

October saw a total production of 26,400 lorries, buses and traction engines. This is ten per per working day less than in the previous year and about the same as in the month before.

In the first ten months of 1977 this country produced 3.14 million automobiles (1976: 2.95 million) and 261,000 (265,241) commercial vehicles. Thus, automobile production increased by seven per cent and commercial vehicle production dropped by two per cent compared with the same period last year.

Fifty-five per cent of the vehicles produced in October were exported, compared with 55.1 per cent in 1976. Total export figures amount to 204,000 units (199,202).

Exports in the first ten months of this year totalled 1.72 million units (1.65 million). Export increases are solely attributable to automobiles, where an increase of five per cent was registered. This year's exports of commercial vehicles are six per cent below the previous year's exports.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 24 November 1977)

VW clinches GDR deal

Sensational was the word used by motor manufacturers to describe the deal with East Berlin concluded by Volkswagen after months of negotiations.

VW are to sell the GDR 10,000 Golf compacts, marketed abroad as Volkswagen Rabbits, starting next spring. Specifications of fittings have yet to be finalised.

At present, the contract applies only to 1978. But VW hopes that other such deals will follow, thus opening a hitherto closed market in the other part of Germany.

Insiders view the deal with the GDR as consistent with the policy of VW's chief executive, Toni Schmücker, who says: "We must fight for all markets; competition is getting fiercer all the time."

The GDR party to the contract is the East Berlin State trading organisation. *Aussenhandelsbetrieb Transportmaschinen Export und Import.* Under the terms of the contract the GDR company will have to build up a service network for the Rabbit. This means that an equipment and spares deal must follow the automobile deal.

The actual value of the contract is still unknown and will depend on the standard of equipment and fittings. In the Federal Republic of Germany the Rabbit costs between DM9,500 and DM15,000.

The car will sell for about 30,000 marks in the GDR. VW's 1978 volume of business with East Berlin will amount to between DM80 to DM90 million.

But the GDR will not pay in foreign exchange; instead, the deal has been concluded on a barter basis, with the GDR supplying automobile industry related goods.

So far, the GDR has imported 500 Volvo automobiles per annum from Sweden. These cars are intended for high-ranking officials. Fiats made in Poland and Italy have also been imported.

This year the GDR with have produced about 170,000 automobiles — all of them two-stroke Wartburgs and Trabants. It is estimated that there are some two million automobiles in the GDR.

Motor manufacturers in this country welcome VW's deal with the GDR, terming it a breakthrough. But component manufacturers view the deal with scepticism. They feel the barter deal may jeopardise jobs in this country.

(Die Welt, 1 December 1977)

Gatt pessimistic

Continued from page 5

Montefibre concern has been forbidden by the government to carry out planned mass lay-offs, has forced the Man-made fibre industry in this country, which is suffering from unutilised production capacities anyway, to cut down on production still further.

In addition to *Enka Glanzstoff, Bayer* and *Hoechst*, this competition has also severely hit the *Hüls* fibreworks. After a mere few months in operation they had to discontinue production in Europe's most modern plant, which was completed in the spring.

It is nowadays taken for granted that there is no aviation industry in the world that could survive without State assistance, and the same applies to airlines.

But also many an automobile manufacturer, chemical or textile company would long have disappeared from the world's markets had they not been saved time and again at the expense of the taxpayer. A similar development is now in the offing with regard to Man-made fibres.

But State subsidies, of which virtually all Western industrialised nations make use in an effort to preserve jobs at any cost, not only distort competition conditions in individual branches of industry.

In cases where such subsidies are paid to virtually all a country's companies they have the same effect as general import levies and export subsidies.

Thus Danish manufacturers complain about Sweden's labour market policy inasmuch as the generous assistance granted by the Swedish government to all companies who stall redundancies provides Swedish business with an edge which is in contravention of the free trade agreement with the EEC.

Sweden, where between four and five per cent of all workers are "artificially" employed at present, thus exports its own unemployment to neighbouring countries.

But as soon as a trading partner retaliates in kind the international subsidies race becomes an absurdity. Instead of modernising, the participants in this futile race preserve the least productive jobs at a staggering cost.

What Gatt Study No. 5 says about the consequences of conventional protectionism applies in equal measure to protectionism by means of subsidies.

The study says: "Attempts to prevent, postpone or retard an adaptation process based on the illusion that it is possible to sidestep the social and political stresses and strains that go with it render the economy even more vulnerable."

Michael Jungblut

(Die Zeit, 2 December 1977)

■ TRANSPORT

High-speed rail trials on Bundesbahn's trailblazing Munich testbed

As recently as the late sixties anyone who had ventured to predict a future of any kind for the railways would have earned little more than a wan smile.

Jumbo short-haul jets, 300-mph hovertrains and an autobahn network serving every nook and cranny of Europe seemed to be on the point of sending railway locomotives and rolling stock to the breaker's yard.

Closures put paid to thousands of miles of permanent way in a vain attempt to streamline the railways financially, yet despite cuts railway networks all over the world continued to run up staggering deficits.

This country was by no means alone in the industrialised West in anticipating the demise of the Great Iron Way. Then the oil crisis came home to roost, reminding us all that discretion is the better part of valour.

Nowadays no one smirks at the mention of proposals to start building new railway lines for what, by and large, will be the first time in half a century.

In 1974 European countries decided to rebuild 25,000 miles of main-line permanent way, some routes being entirely new. The target is to cater for 165-mph (260-km/h) express trains.

What is more, these express services, travelling at extremely impressive speeds in terms of European distances, will be run by conventional locomotives and



carriages, using wheels and not some whizz-kid technology or other.

In this country three new high-speed sections of permanent way are under construction. The 1,000 kilometres (625 miles) of track will take ten years to build.

In the good old days *Deutsche Reichsbahn* laid 1,000 kilometres of track in a single year, but in those days planning procedures were less cumbersome, the countryside boasted more in the way of wide-open spaces and construction costs were but a fraction of what they are today.

If only rail services were faster and more frequent, of course, many travellers would travel by rail rather than by car, while on intercity routes the railways would remain serious competition for air transport even once the current hijack scare had subsided and security checks were less time-consuming.

But how fast can trains travel? Strange though it may seem, railway research scientists and engineers are still unable to say how fast conventional rail travel might yet become.

All they feel able to say with any certainty is that 125 miles per hour (200 km/h) will prove no problem. Services should easily keep to schedule at this speed.

In order to provide the proof of the pudding, as it were, *Deutsche Bundesbahn*, the German Federal Railways, recently inaugurated a unique testbed facility in Freimann, a Munich suburb.

The new rolling testbed enables research engineers to put test vehicles through their paces at speeds of up to 300 miles per hour (500 km/h).

Railway engineers from other countries are green with envy. The testbed facility, which can be used for industrial research on payment of the appropriate consideration,was built in less than two years with the aid of a Federal government grant in excess of fifty million deutschmarks.

Hydraulic rollers that simulate the track form the nucleus of the testbed. They rotate at breakneck speed, with locomotive axles, chassis and complete railcars perched on top.

The rollers roll and the wheels roll, but both remain stationary like a king-size keep-fit device at simulated speeds of up to 300 miles an hour.

The hydraulic mechanism enables the rollers to be moved in any direction as they rotate, thereby simulating the jolts to which train wheels are subjected as they rattle over the rails.

Curves and gradients can be simulated, as can the mechanical forces to which different kinds of rolling stock are subjected. There is, it seems, a world of difference in this respect between an unladen goods waggon and a locomotive railcar.

Maximum simulated speed is assessed on the basis of the roller diameter (1,400 mm) and the peak rotation of 1,900 revolutions per minute.

The mechanical forces that require restraint are stupendous. All readings are taken electronically and evaluated continuously by process computer because of the risk of an error leading to the ruin of the entire installation.

Immediate evaluation will, it is hoped, anticipate situations in which this danger threatens, allowing the computer and control staff to switch on to emergency software programmes.

The testbed workshop is 44 metres (144 ft) long, 24.4 metres (eighty ft) wide and sixteen metres (52 ft 6in) high. The testbed itself is thirty metres (98ft 5in) long and 4.3 metres (fourteen ft) wide.

It is six metres (19ft 8in) tall and can be set to simulate any required track gauge. It is perched on a 1,700-ton sprung foundation which is separated by 52 compressed-air and eight dozen steel spring units from conventional foundations.

Trials of axles and wheels, brakes and propulsion units form only part of the overall project, however.

On a busy stretch of permanent way between Munich and Dachau five new designs of superstructure are to undergo trials over a distance of 1.7 kilometres, or a fraction over a mile.

This section of track is one of the busiest the Bundesbahn operates. Starting next year all trains will use the experimental track to ascertain the most satisfactory design.

All new designs of permanent way currently envisaged have one point in common. Concrete takes the place of the ballast in which conventional railway sleepers are feather-bedded.

The higher the speed, the more frequent the intervals at which conventional track needs maintenance. Tracks need surveying, balancing and resetting in their bed of gravel.

The new concrete designs incorporate rubber or plastic interlay for flexibility. Concrete foundations are either prefabricated in sections or set on-site.

Concrete sleepers are guaranteed to keep rails straight and level for a considerable length of *time*.

The only drawback of the new-style railway track is that as yet it is substantially noisier than its predecessor, but in time research engineers hope to solve this particular teaser.

This research programme will not only benefit rail travel and travellers in this country in the none-too-distant future, it will also provide the know-how for future business with other countries.

Many countries are interested in the possibility of installing high-speed rail networks — countries that as yet are lacking in infrastructure but large in size, with long distances to travel.

Hans Jörg Wittsack

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 26 November 1977)

'New look' for the railways

Details of comprehensive improvements in rail services have been outlined by Wolfgang Vaerst, board chairman of Deutsche Bundesbahn, the German Federal Railways, at a press conference in Lahnstein.

Trains are to travel faster and services to be increased in frequency, with more through trains linking major cities. Fares are to be slashed, comfort and service to be improved.

The new package is designed to cater for the needs of an increasingly mobile travelling public and help the Bundesbahn to make a profit again after years in the red.

In order to make rail travel a more attractive proposition and to induce travellers to go rail rather than drive or fly, three new train systems are gradually to be introduced.

Intercity express services constitute the first category. They will cover a network of 3,100 kilometres (a little over 2,000 miles) and link major cities at hourly intervals.

Intercity trains will incorporate both first- and second-class carriages and travel at speeds of up to 200 kilometres an hour (125mph).

The first new-look intercity services will link Hamburg and Cologne next May when the summer timetable comes into force.

The second category will consist of express services covering a network of roughly 4,000 kilometres (2,500 miles). Services will not run every hour on the hour but will be scheduled as and when required.

They will, of course, be regular services, with first- and second-class carriages and top speeds of 160 kilometres an hour (100 mph).

The third category will comprise international services, night expresses, holiday and car sleepers and specials. The maximum speed of trains in this cate-

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■ TECHNOLOGY

Meteosat maintains space-age weather vigil

When Meteosat, the European Space Agency's weather satellite, was finally put into orbit from Cape Canaveral on 23 November, European members of the control centre team in charge of the launching breathed a sigh of relief.

Previous launchings had so often been postponed, and the first satellite aborted after an unsatisfactory take-off, that ESA project scientists had on occasions been close to tears.

The Meteosat project, involving three satellites and expenditure totalling 480 million deutschmarks, is a joint venture sponsored by eight European countries including the Federal Republic of Germany.

Aérospatiale of France are the main contractors, but this country's Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm and Siemens are also intimately associated with the project.

But when the blast-off finally succeeded at 2.35 hours local time one Wednesday morning the heartache was quickly forgotten, as were fears that the rocket's self-destruct mechanism might be triggered off by mysterious signals from a ship somewhere off the coast of West Africa.

The insurance company with which ESA had insured the take-off rocket for fifteen million dollars — just to be on the safe side — no doubt also sighed with relief.

Alongside two US and a Japanese weather satellite that are already in operation, Meteosat is designed to contribute toward worldwide space surveillance of the weather and a substantial improvement in forecasting.

A fifth satellite is due to be launched by the Soviet Union and when it too is operational a string of satellites will be in position, maintaining a nonstop vigil on atmospheric conditions from on high.

They will each orbit the Equator at an altitude of 36,000 kilometres, or 24,000 miles, at a speed which enables them to maintain a seemingly stationary position in the sky.

Stationed at equal intervals around the Equator, they will enable meteorologists to achieve an ambition about which most have hardly dared to dream.

Starting at the end of next year a simultaneous vigil will be maintained on weather conditions all over the world from the upper atmosphere, which should contribute toward a vast improvement in forecasting.

Dieter Lennertz, ESA's Meteosat project manager, reckons TV viewers in this country will probably derive benefit from the space venture too.

The weather chart shown on TV can be anything up to twelve hours old. Starting next spring it may well be joined by a film indicating the day's cloud movements.

US meteorological satellites currently relay two charts or so per day, whereas Meteosat will relay the wherewithal of a new chart at half-hourly intervals.

What is more, Meteosat is equipped with infra-red cameras and can relay interpretable pictures of the night sky too.

Now if these images are superimposed the effect is to convey a graphic impression of the day's weather and some indication of what to expect tomorrow.

This visual aid will not only render TV meteorological reports more graphic; Meteosat will also ensure that the latest images flashed on our TV screens are no more than an hour or two old.

The Soviet satellite, the last link in the proposed equatorial satellite chain, has yet to be launched. It was scheduled for launching by the end of next year, when a twelve-month observation phase was due to start.

But the Russians have written to the World Meteorological Organisation to say that they are unable to meet their deadline and to sound out the possibility of ESA bridging the gap.

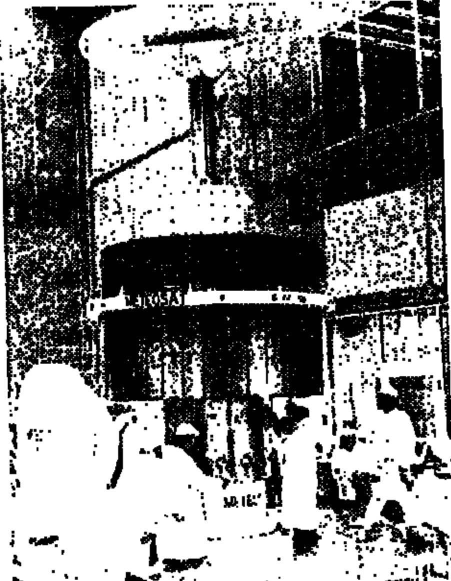
The Americans suggested positioning Meteosat further east so as to cover the Earth from four satellites stationed above the Equator rather than five.

Meteosat would then keep a space eye not only on Europe in the Northern Hemisphere but also on the Soviet Union, but ESA's director of meteorological research Ernst Trendelenburg was not interested.

ESA, he explained, was not prepared to countenance the poorer quality of Central European coverage that must necessarily ensue from a relocation of Meteosat to cover the Soviet Union too.

ESA is, on the other hand, prepared to supply the Soviet Union with a replacement Meteosat it has on standby. The spare satellite could easily be prepared for take-off in time to meet the Soviet deadline.

But ESA cannot afford the additional expenditure another sixteen-million-dollar launching from Cape Canaveral would entail.



Meteosat undergoing pre-flight trials (Photo: dpa)

Two options are under consideration. Either the United States foots the take-off bill or the Soviet Union launches Meteosat 2 using a rocket of its own.

The second option would necessitate time-consuming alterations to both the satellite and the Soviet launcher rocket, however.

What is more, the West cannot be sure whether the Soviet delay is not merely a tactical ploy.

The Soviet Union wanted to buy an American computer to evaluate the data relayed by its satellite, but the US government has refused export permission.

At ESA's space operation centre in Darmstadt, south of Frankfurt, the second-largest computer installation in Europe has been set up to monitor and evaluate Meteosat data and conduct other research.

So it may be that the Soviet delay is occasioned by political rather than technological difficulties.

European countries are by no means alone in eagerly awaiting Meteosat's first handiwork. A number of Arab countries which are also well within range of the satellite's space eye have also enquired as to how they may benefit from the data relayed.

With the aid of ground stations of their own they could, for instance, substantially improve meteorological research and weather forecasting in their own part of the world.

This could well prove a crucial improvement too in view of the ravages drought has wrought in the Sahel zone of the Afro-Arab world. *Anatol Johansen*

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 24 November 1977)

Continued from page 8

gory will be 140 kilometres an hour (88mph).

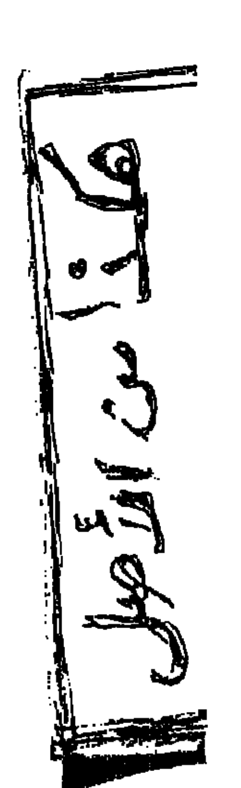
Further improvements will include more parking lots at railway stations, easier access to trains and better luggage service, including door-to-door facilities using taxis and the postal service.

Freight services are also to be improved, with freight and passenger traffic being kept separate as far as possible.

Once the shake-up has been completed, says Bundesbahn financial manager Hans H. Reschke, Deutsche Bundesbahn will be smaller but better.

By 1982 manpower is scheduled to have been slashed from the current 360,000 to a mere 300,000.

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 29 November 1977)



THE ARTS

'Film as Film since 1910' at Cologne *Kunstverein*

For many years, the medium of film was neglected by the official arbiters of the arts and the subsidies received from public funds were inadequate. This has now changed. There is increasing interest in the use of film in art.

There was a special section on the modern experimental film at *documenta 6* in Kassel, not to mention regular film showings and events.

Cologne *Kunstverein* is carrying on where the Kassel exhibition off with an exhibition of *Film as Film – from 1910 to the Present Day*. It will have more of a historical dimension than its Kassel predecessor, and a larger number of exhibits.

By film the organisers do not mean the commercial Hollywood-style film but the abstract, absolute, structural non-fiction film which has been developing ever since the nineteen-twenties and corresponds to the film events and environment of our own day.

Film as Film – for the Cologne exhibition this meant, among other things, film on the walls, between perspex glass panes, films in pciture frames.

Marcel Duchamp's camera is one of the many interesting objects at the exhibition, plus the spiral pages the artist used for *Anaemic Cinema*, his experiment with the third dimension. *Anaemic Cinema*, made in 1925, is the only film Duchamp ever signed.

Then there are Viking Eggeling's original drawings for his *Diagonal Symphony*, the original drawings for Oskar Fischinger's cartoons and Walter Ruttmann's last oil painting.

These are documents which here, for the first time, are shown in their historical context. They complement the film works of the artists on show at the exhibition.

The film programmes shown at the opening of the exhibition on 24 November included some of the finest and most important films of the twenties: Walter Ruttmann's *Opus 4*, Viking Eggeling's *Diagonal Symphony*, Fernand Léger's *Ballet Mécanique* and Oskar Fischinger's *Kreise* (Circles). These are all films in which basic elements of the medium – light, rhythm, take techniques, montage, projection – are used to create formal structures.

The idea of blowing up film and presenting it in photo form was particularly successful. It gave the visitor an insight into formal aspects of film projection – 24 frames a second go through the projector – which means that we cannot see most of it. And this has an interesting side effect. The separate exposures on various screens all have their own aesthetic effect.

This particularly noticeable in Man Ray's film pictures entitled *Le Retour à la Raison* (Return to Reason), the first venture into cinematography by this painter, photographer and film-maker. The film was made in 1923 and the still shots in isolation help us to understand the photogram technique.

The exhibition underlines the fact that most of the film-makers of the twenties had already been involved in other visual arts before taking up film-making. The same applies to the second part of the exhibition, which covers the period from the forties to the present day.

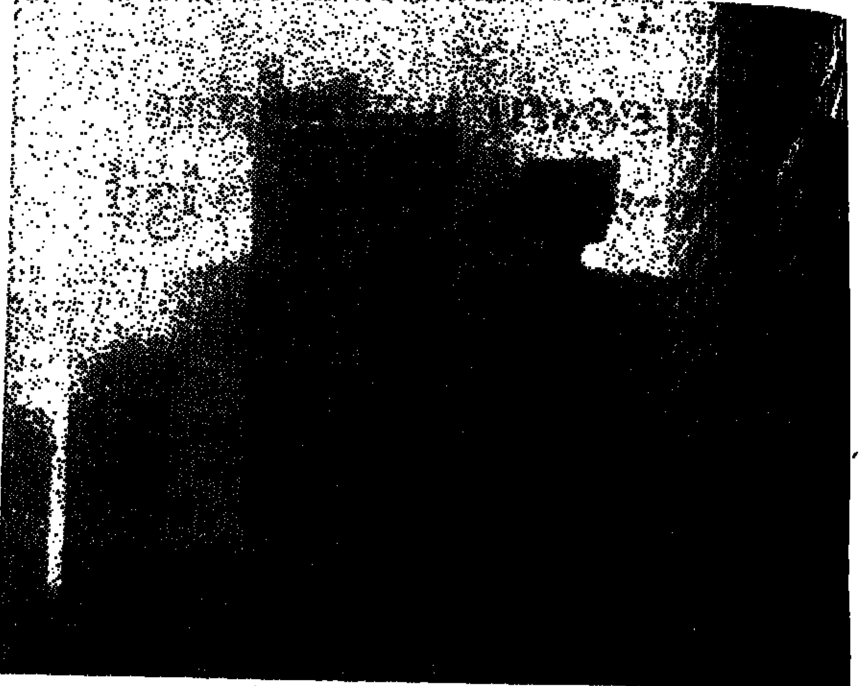
Wulf Herzogenrath is responsible for the twenties section and Birgit Hein for the second section of the exhibition. It has been very carefully planned, and the historical development is excellently illustrated. The connections between today's structural film and Expanded Cinema and the so-called artistic films of the twenties are also shown.

Cologne *Kunstverein* shows a considerable number of works by film-makers of the nineteen-seventies. *The Magic Eye*, by Peter Weibel and Valie Export, is a projection in which light oscillations are transformed into sound oscillations.

The American Paul Sharit's *Colour Sound Frame* and Englishman Antony McCall's *Conical Solid* are also on view, the latter being a work in which relations between light and time are analysed. This is a work, like *Line Describing a Cone*, McCall's best known work, which has strong affinities with light sculpture.

The strength of this exhibition is the juxtaposition of historical documents with work in progress. The organisers have avoided the current trend toward nostalgic retrospectives of works of assured merit.

The visitor to this exhibition has to have an open mind and be prepared to



Michael Snow's *New York Eye and Ear Control*, 1964 (Photo: Kath)

accept new and unusual ideas and experiments. Apart from the documents and the permanent exhibits, there is a whole series of film shows, projections and performances at the exhibition, as well as a survey of the activities of film-makers and those involved in Expanded Cinema.

The most important of these showings, which included West Coast and flux films, sixties' and seventies' structural films and Expanded Cinema, was at the end of November.

Some of the films are also on videotape, though given the size of the screens this can only be second best. The catalogue is an important guide and is and will shortly be appearing in book form.

In the catalogue we find original documents, letters, notes, reviews and essays about various aspects of the avant-garde movement. Some of these are published here for the first time.

The catalogue also contains summaries and descriptions of the most important films, biographies of the major film-makers and explanations of film terminology.

Rolf Wiest

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 24 November 1977)

Syberberg's seven-hour Hitler epic premiered in London

Hans-Jürgen Syberberg's *Hitler – Ein Film aus Deutschland* (Hitler – A Film from Germany) is also, inevitably, a film *for* Germany. The director, however, has chosen the London Film Festival for the premiere of this monumental work.

The final touches have just been put to the film and it is now just about ready to be screened. But this is not the only reason the film is being premiered in London.

Syberberg believes that his fellow-countrymen have neglected him and his work for too long and that is the main reason why he has snubbed them in this way.

Perhaps Syberberg's decision is a blessing in disguise. Adolf Hitler was a catastrophe that lasted twelve years. Syberberg's Hitler film, from a political as well as from a stylistic point of view, is a catastrophe that lasts seven hours.

Stylistically, it is not even a film but a montage of various sound and picture elements in which sound very much predominates. It is not as if the two elements complement one another, they just run parallel.

Usually, there are two or even three visual elements and two sound-tracks – the main text and a musical or spoken secondary text. In the English version, subtitles and dubbing compound the general confusion.

Syberberg's meandering exploration of the Hitler era is subdivided into four parts, but there is no convincing structure either in the stylistic sequence of scenes of in the overall conception. The director claims that the documentary sound-tracks have been arranged chronologically but there is little evidence of this.

Documentary takes and the visions of William Blake, Caspar David Friedrich and Philipp Otto Runge are put together with cabaret scenes. Skilful use is made of the front projection technique which presents a picture as the background in a studio.

This technique is particularly effective as Syberberg shows us an actor playing the part of Hitler's valet wandering through the ruins of the once-magnificent Reich Chancellery.

The overall result is something like Peter Stein's Berlin *Schaubühne* panorama of Shakespeare's age – Hitler's Memory, to paraphrase Stein, interspersed with romantic elements and the bombastic style of Leni Riefenstahl's Nuremberg Rally film *Triumph des Willens*. (The Triumph of the Will). Syberberg, like the Führer himself, seems to have a great admiration for Frau Riefenstahl.

Syberberg sees Hitler not only as a Wagnerian Siegfried but also as a film hero and even as a film-maker.

Hitler, he points out, not only considered himself the greatest general of all time but also the greatest film-maker of all time. He insisted on seeing the weekly wartime cinema newsreels just as a director goes over the day's takes.

However, perceptions and reflections of this kind unfortunately outweigh the sober psychological, sociological and historical interpretation of Hitler and his age. A generation after his death such an appraisal should be possible and is certainly necessary.

Syberberg tells us very little that is new about Hitler. All he does is repeat familiar points. He demonises him, he deflates him as the lower middle class man from Braunau, he caricatures him as an Austrian Punch and Judy badman boasting to his contemporaries and to succeeding ages of his great achievements.

The most disturbing aspect of the film is that Syberberg faithfully reproduces the Hitler image which was *de rigueur* while the Nazi leader was in power – Hitler comes over as a kind of demi-god in Syberberg's apotheosis of him.

When Syberberg talks of "holy sperm" hidden in the Alps which will one day beget a new Führer, the humorous and deflating intent is clear enough, but irony and adoration are difficult to distinguish when Syberberg puts Hitler on a plane with Jesus, Charlemagne and the Habsburgs, describing him as the "fulfiller of Western principles."

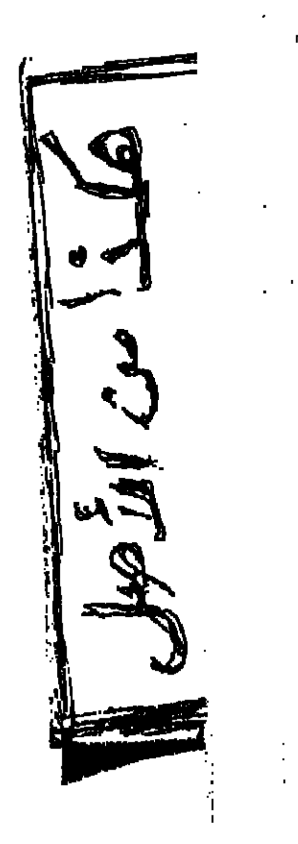
It is not always clear where objective and where propaganda sources are being used. Syberberg's own effusions are not identified, either. This is dangerous. Syberberg has no one else but himself to blame when he is accused of being Adolf's apostle, thongh he does not see himself as a Hitlerian at all.

Syberberg does, howevers subscribe to Max Picard's philosophy that "Hitler is in us all." He sees aspects of Hitler in all Germans and in all other races, even in our own times. In this version, Hitler says "In a strange way, we did win after all."

Syberberg's analysis of Hitler's historical influence is superficial and trivial nonetheless. He says that people in America do not mention the gas chambers at all today for the sake of petroleum! The connecting link between Hitler and the dateline of the film is thin and unconvincing: "the day after Mogadishu, Stammheim and Mulhouse."

Peter Fischer

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 29 November 1977)



EDUCATION

One student in five needs psychiatric help, government survey concludes



Fifteen to twenty per cent of students are psychologically disturbed and in need of therapeutic treatment. This is the conclusion reached in a psychiatric survey commissioned by the Bundestag in 1975.

Members of the psychological and psychotherapeutic Students' Advisory Centre in Berlin reckon that the situation is even more serious. Problems which students have to overcome – competition, poor job prospects, financial difficulties – are becoming graver, to judge from those who go to the advisory centre for help.

The number of those who can be described as seriously disturbed is far higher than five years ago, the student counsellors point out.

Most students go to the centre because they are having difficulties which work. The symptoms for this vary considerably, from inability to read to anxiety neuroses and even suicidal states of mind.

Many students sit at their desks and cannot understand what they are reading, cannot think and cannot work. They then welcome any distraction that is available. Fear of work is expressed in organisational fetishism or reading newspapers for hours on end.

This may appear to be harmless enough, but it can end in a vicious circle. A student skips a seminar and has a bad conscience about it, then he misses another and the gap in knowledge between him and his fellow-students increases, the student loses confidence, withdraws and becomes completely isolated.

Disorientation, insecurity and crises are common among practically all students and very frequently lead to hanges of course, extra years of study or even the abandonment of the course. The student counsellors stress that most students go through difficult and even critical phases but they generally come out of them.

Students as a group are in a more critical situation than most other sectors of the population. First there are the classic sources of potential conflict such as the phenomenon of extended adolescence.

Students aged between twenty and thirty are biologically and legally adults but still dependent on their parents. They have no home or family of their own in contrast to most of their contemporaries.

Extreme identity problems are usually the result. They have little social responsibility. Students are in an unstable social situation as it is. The student counsellors mention poor lodgings, financial difficulties and contact difficulties as major causes of problems.

Then there is a relatively new phenomenon, the competitive pressure as a result of the *numerus clausus* system whereby only pupils with excellent marks have a chance of being accepted to study certain subjects.

This pressure is already evident in schools.

Counsellors state that many of those who come to them are completely isolated at the beginning of their studies. The *numerus clausus* system, means that many students are studying subjects they do not find interesting and with which they have little chance of getting a job later.

Oversubscribed subjects and a too theoretical training also reduce student motivation and increase isolation.

Poor job prospects are an important factor here, as figures illustrate. Of those who came to the centre for advice in 1976, an average of 34 per cent came because they were suffering from depression.

In the case of those who had passed the first or the second state examination, which generally lead to the teaching profession, the figures were 83 and 75 per cent. It is common knowledge that job prospects for teachers are far from good.

In contrast, those taking other courses who had passed their final exams did not suffer from depression so much. The figures were fourteen per cent for those who had passed intermediate exams and 25 per cent for those with degrees in other subjects.

Another important factor here was whether or not the student had definite plans about his or her future job. Of those who sought advice at the centre, whether or not the student had definite ideas about what profession to enter had difficulties with their studies, whereas the figure for those with plans to enter technical professions or business was only 41 per cent.

Students intending to do social work or work in the arts had even fewer problems. The figures here were 32 and 22 per cent respectively. The student counsellors concluded that their identification with their later professional aims and the subjects they were studying was greater.

Those studying subjects which did not lead to any particular profession seemed especially vulnerable. This applied to subjects such as philosophy, sociology and art. One counsellor pointed out that sociology students seemed most prone to depression: 9.5 per cent of all students in Berlin study sociology, yet the percentage of sociologists seeking advice at the centre was significantly higher, 15 per cent.

Twenty two per cent of all clients were language students, although they only constituted 13.5 per cent of the total student population. Sixteen per cent of those seeking advice studied "social sciences" (12.8 per cent of total student population).

Another of the counsellors' findings was that students on a higher educational and social level than their parents had more difficulties than those whose parents' educational standard was already high.

The fact that many of these students did not "make the grade" had nothing to do with lack of intelligence. The reason was that such students were under considerable pressure and suffered from alienation from their parents' background and language.

Many students also had difficulties getting used to Berlin. Fifty-four per cent of all students at the centre were in their first three years at Berlin and almost half of these, 24 per cent, had only been in the city for a year of less.

The number of first time clients last year was 1,300, roughly the same as in the previous year; 365 of these received individual therapy, lasting on average nine hours and 551 students took part in group therapy – in other words, more than one per cent of Berlin's 75,000 students.

According to the *Deutsches Studentenwerk*, six per cent of all students seek psychological advice at some time during their course. These figures are far below the estimated figure of fifteen to twenty per cent who need psychological help.

Centre counsellors are now trying to think of ways of tackling this problem and reducing the fear of seeking psychological advice. This would mean that problem cases could be reached earlier where now they are often not reached at all.

Counsellors at the Advisory Centre agree that students who seek their advice can generally be helped with their problems because they want to be helped, particularly with acute problems such as examination fear, partnership problems and isolation.

Dorothee Soehlke

(Der Tagesspiegel, 25 November 1977)

Rat race plea

Bonn Education Minister Helmut Rohde has called upon teachers, parents, state and private institutions and the mass media to make joint efforts to reduce stress in schools.

Speaking at a conference in Osnabrück Herr Rohde warned parents: "Give your children a good education, but leave competition for positions to adults and to their later working life."

He stressed that this was one way in which parents could reduce their children's fear of school. Parents should try to avoid preconceptions stemming from their own situation when considering their children's future.

The present situation, in which parents blamed teachers for errors and omissions, teachers blamed parents for their mistakes and their inflated expectations and pupils claimed that the older generation did not understand them, was simply not good enough, he warned.

Herr Rohde said that the whole educational system should be more open and more flexible and that industry should fulfil its obligation to provide apprenticeships.

As for teachers, the Minister said they should show more appreciation and understanding of pupils' difficulties and fears inside and outside school. He also stressed the importance of more tolerance and a more relaxed teaching atmosphere.

dpa

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 29 November 1977)

Crash-course German at Kassel college

The Europa-Kolleg in Kassel, a state language school for foreigners, is the only school of its kind in this country. More than six thousand students from more than fifty countries have attended courses there.

Most of these students had no previous knowledge of German when they started. Since 1976 resettled Germans from Poland and the Soviet Union have also been attending these courses.

The students, pupils, teachers and the adults and young people who are already at work stay with German families in Kassel while attending the courses. There are now over 350 host families.

Lothar Arabin, director of the Kassel Europa-Kolleg, says that "without their cooperation and understanding our work would be impossible."

He recalls the case of a young Tunisian diplomat who did not understand a word of German when he arrived. After eight weeks he could go along to election meetings and give an accurate summary of what had been said.

He also mentioned Fernand Tangay, first secretary at the Canadian Embassy in Bonn, who learnt his German at the Kassel school. Tangay wrote to say that he was now able to conduct correspondence in German with the Bonn Foreign Office – thanks to the Kolleg and what he had learnt there.

He cites the case of a young Canadian woman as evidence that things do not always go quite so smoothly. She got her weights and measures mixed up and told her hosts that she had "put on three kilometres."

Lothar Arabin and his wife Hildegard founded the Europa Kolleg in Kassel ten years ago as a private language school. Their philosophy was that a foreign language is best taught in the country where it can be used permanently and systematically by the teachers with no use of the pupils' mother tongue whatsoever.

The school is now state-owned and is equipped with a modern language laboratory and study recorders. Visits to the theatre, museums and industrial firms as well as evening lectures all complete the programme.

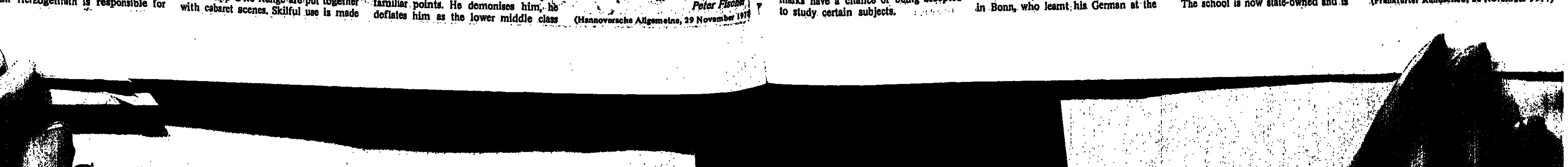
Detailed brochures advertise the college and indirectly the city of Kassel. They are available in German consulates and embassies abroad, in foreign embassies in this country and in fifteen agencies abroad.

Arabin states, however, that "the best advertising of all for us is the good accounts former pupils give of us when they go back home. This year for the first time we have had to turn down applicants. We simply didn't have room for them all."

The response from former pupils shows that this school makes an important contribution to international understanding. One letter says: "I will tell everyone all over Africa and all over Upper Volta how good your school is." Another letter from a Frenchman: "My sincere thanks to you for the four weeks in which I learnt to love Germany and the Germans."

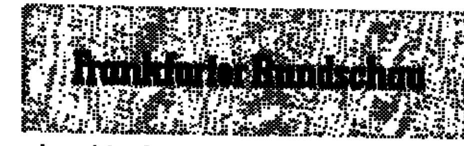
Heinz Hartmann/dpa

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 23 November 1977)



■ HEALTH

Aspirin looks like proving more versatile than we all thought



Aspirin is probably the most ubiquitous patent medicine in tablet form. It has been going strong since 1899 when the antipyretic and analgesic properties of salicylic acid were discovered.

But until recently no-one suspected the many other therapeutic properties of this relatively simple chemical substance. As of late, however, researchers and doctors have delved deeper into the properties of aspirin, and the file is far from closed.

There is every likelihood that the next few years will bring new discoveries in connection with a seemingly innocuous drug.

Aspirin has been the subject of simultaneous research and scientific discussion in the past few years in Philadelphia, Berlin and London. Scientists are delving deeper and deeper into additional therapeutic qualities of salicylic acid.

It has been established that the drug can help prevent thrombosis and disorders in connection with the blood supply to coronary vessels and the brain. This, in short, is the outcome of comprehensive clinical studies in the United States, Britain, Canada, Norway and the Federal Republic of Germany.

Everybody, even in the remotest corners of the world, is familiar with aspirin as a remedy against headaches and a palliative in cases of flu. Administered in high dosages, aspirin also helps to relieve rheumatic pain. But the range of its uses is very much wider.

Salicylic acid numbers among the most interesting pharmaceutical substances and forms part of more drugs than generally assumed.

Indications of aspirin's cytostatic and immuno-suppressive properties have lately been augmented by discoveries about its retarding effects on certain enzyme systems — as for instance with regard to prostaglandin synthesis — and its anti-thrombosis properties.

It is the two latter effects of aspirin which have ushered in the drug's new medical era, opening up extremely interesting therapeutic applications.

The American scientist Dr H. Jick has established that people who for some reason use aspirin regularly are much less prone to coronary thrombosis than others. This observation has been confirmed by fellow-researchers.

It has been proved that aspirin prevents the adhesion of thrombocytes, thus improving the flow of blood. As a result, salicylic acid affords protection from blood supply disorders, strokes and thromboses if taken regularly.

Three tablets (or 1.5 grams) can suffice to provide such protection, Professor D. Loew recently stated in Berlin. But such a thrombosis prophylaxis must be implemented under medical supervision.

The new therapeutic possibilities are based on certain hitherto unknown biochemical effects of salicylic acid. Thus for instance, aspirin has an effect on prostaglandin synthesis in the human body.

Prostaglandins are a chemically uniform group of substances with widely differing pharmaceutical effects. They correct physiological functions and are responsible for periodic bodily functions (as, for instance, the menstruation cycle).

Salicylic acid retards the development of prostaglandin molecules, thus making it possible to influence physiological processes thus controlled.

So far, these insights have gained no major importance in therapy but experts are agreed that a purpose-oriented retardation of prostaglandin synthesis by means of aspirin can have far reaching physiological consequences. This might even provide the key to the understanding of the manifold effects of salicylic acid.

This discovery alone would have sufficed to draw the attention of research scientists to aspirin. But latterly this realisation has been further enhanced by insights which open up entirely new therapeutic possibilities. Salicylic acid is now to prevent thrombocytes from sticking to each other, which makes thrombosis prophylaxis feasible.

Blood clots are formed by interaction of plasmatic factors and coagulation factors. The basis of blood clots is provided by special "burr" properties of thrombocytes. In other words, the prevention of such a function could prevent thrombosis even in cases where the inner walls of blood vessels have been damaged.

As has recently been established by Professor K. Breddin, Frankfurt, salicylic acid prevents the adhesion of thrombocytes and above all their deposit on the walls of blood vessels. So far, however, biochemists have been unable to fathom these mechanisms.

It is, however, assumed that a salicylic group secedes from the salicylic acid molecule, linking itself to a protein molecule which is responsible for the adhesion.

An important factor in this connection is that this process only functions with an intake of more than 500 milligrams of aspirin.

In view of these two new scientific discoveries, which are probably inter-linked, a treatment of arterial blood supply disorders appears feasible.

Comprehensive research has meanwhile also proved that post-operative thrombo-embolic complications can be considerably reduced through treatment with salicylic acid. In many instances it is this very adhesion of thrombocytes which leads to disaster.

Professor Breddin's two-year study involved more than 1,000 patients. Even though the study is methodically, statistically and clinically absolutely above board, there is still no way of completely excluding post-operative thrombosis risks since dangerous embolisms are governed not only by the properties of blood.

In this connection, Professor D. Loew has pointed out in London that salicylic acid cannot dissolve clots. As opposed to some other drugs, it cannot reverse a thrombosis process but only prevent it. In other words, the therapeutic effect of aspirin depends not on the dosage — 1,500 milligrams a day — but on the degree of sclerosis.

The clinical use of aspirin in treating heart and circulation disorders encouragingly indicates that salicylic acid can mitigate the fatal consequences of coronary ailments.

Numerous studies in various Western countries have meanwhile confirmed this. Thus, for instance, Professor P. C. Elwood, Cardiff, reports that aspirin reduces mortality after heart attacks.

In an initial study, Professor Elwood treated 635 cardiac patients for two years by administering 300 milligrams of aspirin three times a day. Another group were, for comparison purposes, given placebos. The placebo group showed a mortality rate of 13.6 per cent whereas the group treated with aspirin showed a mortality of only 8.8 per cent.

Another study carried out by Professor Elwood indicates that considerably better results can be expected.

It seems that the earlier the treatment begins, the more successful the aspirin treatment proves. But the dosage, too, seems to play a major role. It would appear that mortality following a heart attack drops if 1,500 milligrams instead of 1,200 milligrams a day are administered.

Professor Charles R. Klint, Baltimore (USA), reports similar successes. His study is based on a total of 1,500 patients who survived a heart attack and who were administered 1,000 milligrams of aspirin a day.

The most meticulous study is evidently that supervised by Professor Loew, a German-Austrian cooperative study in which seven clinics took part.

The objective of this study, which is the first of its kind, was to prove whether salicylic acid can reduce the risk of a second heart attack and thus of sudden death. Moreover, the study was to register and analyse side-effects.

It involved 945 patients who had suffered a heart attack six weeks earlier and were treated and kept under observation by the seven participating clinics. One group was given a daily dosage of 1,500 milligrams of aspirin whereas another was administered other medication to prevent blood clotting, and a third group received only placebos.

The study began in January 1971 and was completed on 31 March 1977. Preliminary evaluation showed, as pointed out by Professor K. Ueberla, Munich, that the aspirin group showed a lower incidence of a second attack or sudden death than the group treated with other medication or with placebos.

Even though these studies are not yet completed it seems clear that aspirin — especially if the salicylic acid crystals are encapsulated and therefore have no direct contact with the mucous membranes of the stomach — opens up new vistas for therapy following heart attacks.

But whether aspirin can serve as a prophylaxis for heart and circulatory ailments cannot yet be established definitely.

A British study in which some 2,000 doctors participated is to clarify this question. But the first conclusive results are not expected to be forthcoming until a few years from now.

Konrad Müller-Christiansen

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 28 November 1977)

Anaesthesia questionnaire

DIE WELT

Hospital patients who have to be anaesthetised are in future to fill in a questionnaire concerning their health history. They are also to be handed a medical information brochure.

A decision to this effect was reached by the Anaesthetists Association at their recent annual congress in Saarbrücken.

A committee of experts has been commissioned to design the questionnaire and to write the brochure on anaesthesia, which should make it possible to introduce the new procedure in about a year's time in hospitals all over the country.

Professor Karl Hutschenreuter pointed out that the brochure cannot replace a discussion between patient and anaesthetist concerning the risks in each individual case.

At the congress, which was attended by 1,200 physicians from this country and elsewhere in Europe, Professor Horst Lutz, Mannheim, presented statistics according to which some three million anaesthesias per annum are administered in the Federal Republic of Germany. (This figure includes local anaesthesia).

Only in 1,400 cases does anaesthesia lead to grave complications such as a collapse of the heart and circulatory functions.

dpa

(Die Welt, 21 November 1977)

Cashiers handle groceries by the ton

Women working at cash desks in supermarkets are ruining their muscles. During peak hours they have to move up to 500 kilos, or half a ton, of goods per hour.

On weekends — from Friday afternoon until noon on Saturday — they handle up to six tons of goods.

This has been established by a study carried out under the government's "Humanisation of Work" programme which was recently presented and discussed at the Congress for Labour Protection and Labour Medicine in Düsseldorf.

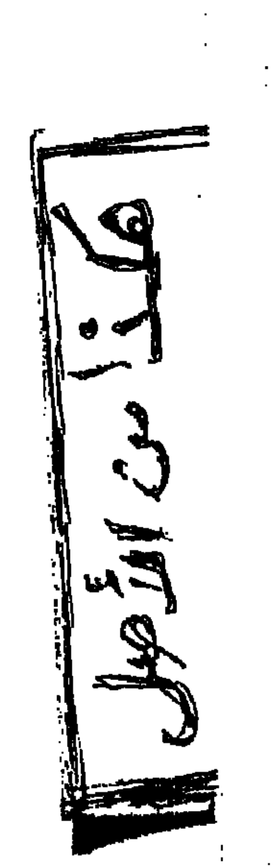
The strain to which this country's 150,000 cashiers are subjected was termed "shocking" by Theodor Peters of Bochum, one of the co-authors of the study. According to him, the cubicle in which these people work is "too confined, too noisy and too cold."

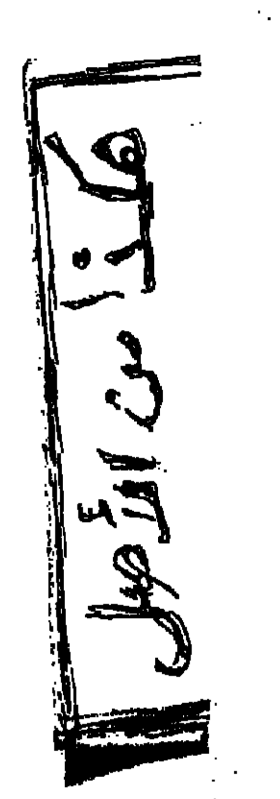
The study arrived at the conclusion that not a single supermarket cash desk meets the current requirements of labour medicine in view of technological facilities available.

Extended work at cash desks leads, in medical terms, to the danger of chronic muscle exhaustion — from the finger tips via the back and shoulders all the way to the neck.

dpa

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 25 November 1977)





■ CHILDREN

Be kinder to kids, new association advises



More tenderness, more attention to and more time for children are the watchwords of the newly-formed League for the Child in Family and Society.

The newly-formed association presented itself to the public in Bonn recently.

The league has been joined by virtually all major welfare organisations, ranging from the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children to the Committee for the Combating of Criminality of Affluence.

The league's sole objective is to draw the attention of parents, politicians, courts of law and government authorities to development in early childhood. Healthy children make for a healthy society, it claims.

The league considers it alarming that 25 per cent of children suffer from behavioural disorders, that 150,000 minors per annum come into conflict with the law and that in many major cities three crimes out of ten are committed by youngsters.

It sees in these facts an indication that our affluent society is ailing. The reason it gives for this state of affairs is that children lack the love only a mother can give in earliest infancy.

A senseless murder five years ago started the ball rolling. Three boys and a girl killed another child whom they did not know and who had done nothing to them. As one of the young offenders put it, shrugging his shoulders: "It just happened that way."

Anthropologist Klaus G. Conrad, a member of the Lions Club, which has 14,000 members in this country, took *action after this key experience.*

He committed himself and his club to a programme of social environment protection of the child, winning the support of other major organisations such as the Rotarians.

Together, the two clubs prepared the ground for the league, making use of their considerable intellectual and capital resources.

They had no difficulty in recruiting followers, among them such renowned paediatricians as Professor Theodor Hellbrügge, judges like the president of the League of Women Jurists, Dr Peschel-Gutzeit, scientists such as the behavioural biologist Professor Bernhard Hassenstein and paediatric specialist Professor Kurt Nitsch.

Professor Nitsch said in Bonn that at a time when all efforts are concentrated on securing affluence children play second fiddle. This was not ill-intentioned, he pointed out, but happened out of sheer ignorance.

As a result, the league considers publicity its foremost task. It wants to spearhead all organisations whose objective it is to achieve better care for children.

It also wants to engage in practical work such as providing assistance for the socially underprivileged, counselling parents and pressing for legal reforms — among them extended protection for mothers, the so-called baby year (off work after giving birth), higher children's allowances and more rights for the child in divorce cases where rulings are passed by the letter of the law without regard for the child's well-being.

The league bemoans the fact that some 800,000 children under the age of three suffer from both their parents working. This is a figure that can serve as a tangible basis for child protection work.

But there still remains the large grey zone of mothers who reject their child and who deny it the tender loving care it needs.

Psychologist Professor Gareis quoted a survey of young offenders in a Bavarian prison. In the course of the study the mothers of the criminals were interviewed, and one third of them stated that they had rejected the child during pregnancy, while 25 per cent said that their child was completely unwanted.

In a parallel action, Professor Gareis interviewed mothers of non-criminal children. Of those only one in five rejected the unborn child and only one in 20 was not with her child during the first three years.

These children did not turn criminal, although many of them suffer from phobias or are aggressive and unstable.

The league wants to help in this sector as well. It wants to induce mothers to accept their child or to release it for adoption.

Barbara Reinecke

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 26 November 1977)

Call for ban on TV violence and sadism

Frankfurter Allgemeine

"I've shot you, you're dead!" This is the sort of cry to be heard daily in every playground. Stimulated by television, children re-enact what they have seen on the screen — be it Kojak, Bonanza, Gunsmoke or what-have-you.

Aktion Jugendschutz, a youth protection campaign in North Rhine-Westphalia, has called for a ban on violence and sadism on television. Instead, the campaign demands a better quality of broadcasts for the young.

It also criticises parents who use television as a babysitter. As one boy put it: "I'd rather watch TV than play outside."

Another, somewhat older boy said: "If there is blood flowing on television and if a chap has a really rough time of it, that's realism."

In a recent American study researchers arrived at the paradoxical conclusion that even an event actually experienced is only endowed with credibility through television.

The movement therefore points out to those responsible for TV programming that, contrary to former assumptions, television neither acts as a deterrent nor reduces aggression. Children at play lend reality to *the violence seen on the* screen.

There is more and more insensitivity and emotional coldness to be observed among children. This is to a large extent due to violence seen on television and heard on radio, but it is also due to the press and the comic strips.

And growing child and youth criminality in the Federal Republic of Germany, which has risen by eighty per cent since 1950, is also attributable to the same elements.

Bonn Family Affairs Minister Antje Huber has suggested that three- to seven-year-olds should not be allowed to watch television for more than an average 45 minutes per day. But statistically, this age group is glued to the screen for roughly one and a half hours a day.

The youth protection campaign is not in principle against crime programmes on television. But such plays must not be the worst of American crime series. On the other hand, there is no objection to good Westerns such as *High Noon*.

The Working Group of Bonn Women's Associations seconds the concern voiced by *Aktion Jugendschutz*. It calls for more say in TV programming on the part of the public.

The Women's Associations also support the survey conducted by the Women's Council of North Rhine-Westphalia which, on request, is distributing questionnaires for the evaluation of TV programmes.

All these organisations are agreed that even the best of work cannot combat the roots of youth criminality since the best protection is still a sound family.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 25 November 1977)

Physical fitness crucial from earliest age

Latest reports according to which eighty per cent of our children suffer from faulty posture, many are insomniacs and nearly fifty per cent have behavioural problems have given rise to demands by psychologists, doctors and educationalists that counter-measures be instituted.

Physical educationalists and doctors demanded at the Berlin congress of the Gymnastics Association that children be induced to put in more physical exercise from the earliest possible age.

Scientists are convinced that many development shortcoming could be remedied if parents, teachers and sports clubs showed more interest in exercise therapy.

Even at the infant and toddler stage, says Professor Robert Decker of Walferdange Institute of Education, Luxembourg, it is important for a child's development to have physical exercise.

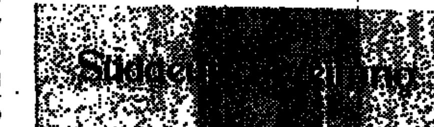
At this stage, he pointed out, the child gains its first experience with the "moving parts" of its body. Not only does it learn the basic means of propulsion and movement in general, such as picking up things, crawling, wriggling, sliding, standing, running, walking, climbing, jumping, throwing and catching, but also combinations of movements such as swimming, cycling, skiing, skating and gymnastics. With this, it acquires such skills as agility, strength, endurance, speed and balance.

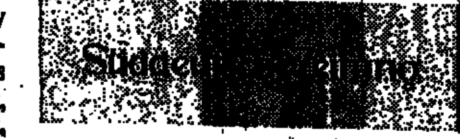
By means of movement the child also develops its personality. Experiences of its own ability, success and failure, influence its future life since overall development is closely linked with physical exercise. Without a modicum of motive experience it is therefore impossible for a child to develop a rounded personality, says Professor Decker.

Scientists lament that parents, kindergartens and schools have not yet drawn their conclusions from these facts. Asks one expert: "Why do children generally sit during instruction at school?"

The delegates to the congress drew attention to the Youth Report of the Bonn government which states that every third school entrant had to attend a psychiatrist last year.

Aggression and psychoses could more easily be avoided if physical exercise





were to be introduced in kindergartens and continued in schools and if it were augmented by extra-curricular physical exercise.

But physical training should always take the form of sport in keeping with a child's needs and not — as frequently observed — become an isolated physical training of specific functions which eventually takes on the form of competitive sport.

It goes without saying that there are many material obstacles in the way of such desirable developments. Numerous kindergartens have neither the space nor the staff for physical education; and many educationalists are familiar only with their own subjects. They consider physical exercise either coincidental or a specialised task.

Parents, on the other hand, lack the necessary understanding and experience to guide their children in that direction.

Moreover, it is an all too familiar fact that local authorities have too few playgrounds and sports facilities. Sports clubs are mainly interested in promoting talent, and they virtually never engage in physical training for its own sake.

Even so, delegates to the congress were unable to come up with a specific remedy for this state of affairs.

Still, their appeal to guide children towards a more meaningful use of their leisure time than watching television was poignant enough to induce politicians, sociologists and educationalists to rethink.

Said the spokesman for the Gymnastics Association: "No physical exercise can offset sins of omission during childhood."

Willi Kinnigkeit

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 24 November 1977)

■ SPORT

Safety first the golden rule for trampoline stars

An open-air swimming baths is not much fun in winter but springboard diver Dr Heinz Braecklein, a lecturer at the Leipzig Sports Academy and later at Freiburg University, did not want to forgo training in the winter months.

But he was equally determined not to freeze to death, so after thinking matters over he decided in 1954, to build a trampoline. It was, to all intents and purposes, the first in this country.

The first trampoline ever dates back to 1928. It was designed by Larry Griswold and George Nissen of the United States. They too were diving champions.

Millions of athletes have since discovered for themselves the pleasure and benefit to be derived from the trampoline. Seven thousand-odd organised athletes in this country swear by it.

Trampolining has been an acknowledged discipline since 1960 and has made headway by leaps and bounds, as officials of the Amateur Gymnastics Association happily concede.

Indoors the ceiling is the limit, and it must be a regulation seven metres (23ft) above the ground, otherwise nasty accidents might happen.

Trampolining takes a certain amount of courage. Spectators too must have their wits about them, since jumpers try to land on the net but do not always succeed.

The tubular steel trampoline frame is 4.70 metres (15ft 5in) long and two *metres (6ft 6in) wide. The nylon and* rubber composition net is attached to the frame by 100 steel springs, which are generously padded in foam rubber.

Safety first is the golden rule observed by all trampoline specialists. They are sensitive to criticism, especially now that Education Ministers plan to ban trampolines from school gyms.

Serious athletes readily admit that the trampoline can prove a menace at schools if youngsters are not taught by qualified staff how to use it properly.

They are quick to add, however, that eight trampoline accidents out of ten occur on junior models used for training purposes by gymnasts and field and track athletes.

The full-size competition trampoline is seldom to blame, yet every summer there are reports of people being paralysed as a result of reckless exercise on unsatisfactory equipment, usually without skilled supervision.

The number of accidents that have occurred under the official aegis over the past seventeen years can be counted on one hand. "There has not been one accident yet in competition," says Heinz Braecklein.

What sort of people go in for trampolining? Gymnasts and divers use the trampoline for off-season training and for working out new routines.

It is also regularly used at rehabilitation centres for the physically or mentally handicapped. Gaining a sense of balance is clearly an important ability to learn.

Last but not least, astronauts train for conditions in outer space by jumping up and down on trampolines and practising gyrations in mid-air.

A good trampoline athlete needs fitness, swift reactions and the ability to concentrate. He must also be able to jump; the trampoline does not automatically bounce you into mid-air.

Gymnasts have the edge over absolute beginners inasmuch as comportment is highly rated, accounting for two marks out of three (the other being awarded for the degree of difficulty of the figure attempted).

Internationally this country has for years been at the top of the tree, sharing international honours with the United States. At home competition is run on a Federal and regional league basis.

A national training centre was set up at Damp on the Baltic but has proved unsatisfactory.

Chief coach Heinz-Peter Michels is based at a Frankfurt gym, while several of his best athletes are stationed with a Bundeswehr sports unit in Mainz. He supervises their training for two hours a day. The schedule includes cross-country running and circuit training as well as trampoline workouts. Another trampoline stronghold is at Salzgitter, where Ute Luxon and her American husband Paul have got together a first-rate bunch of youngsters.

Four other regional centres are envisaged. The next to be set up will be in Bergisch Gladbach.

Grants are currently awarded to medal-winners only. The national team squad no longer qualifies automatically for financial assistance.

Chief coach Michels will shortly have to nominate his squad for the forthcoming world championships in Australia. He is not to be envied; this country has a reputation to maintain.

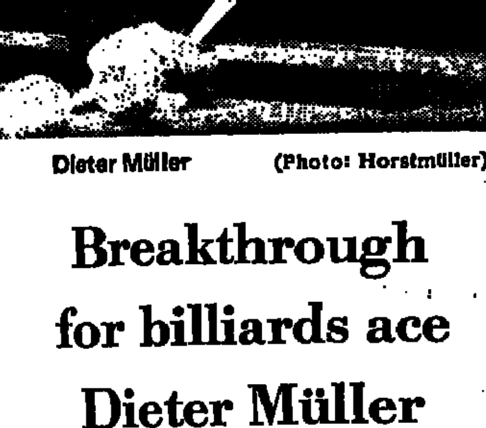
Trampolining is by no means inexpensive even for a sports club. A competition trampoline costs four thousand deutschmarks. But most local authorities provide a grant towards the cost of buying major items of sporting equipment.

Trainers are currently at a premium, but increasing interest is being shown in training courses. Adjudicators are highly qualified, however, and enjoy a high reputation among the 26 member-countries of the international federation.

There they stand, with a keen eye and a pocket calculator. Spectators hardly know who is more deserving of their admiration — the adjudicators or the competitors as they fly through the air with the greatest of (seeming) ease.

Christiane Moravetz

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 26 November 1977)



Dieter Müller (Photo: Horstmüller)

Breakthrough for billiards ace Dieter Müller

Frankfurter Neue Presse

When Dieter Müller, a turner by trade, turns on his talent with the billiard cue he usually makes short shrift of the opposition.

On 27 November he added another world championship title to his lengthy list. What is more, he did so in his *home town, Berlin.*

He already has two world championships, five European championships and 23 national championship titles to his credit.

His international career began with a vengeance in Düsseldorf in 1967 when he set up a new world record at the world championships.

Müller, 34, has since been hailed by fans and foes alike as a potential all-time great and worthy successor to the likes of Tiedke and Lütgehetmann.

Yet some years elapsed before he made good this initial promise. He took his first European championship in 1969 but regularly failed to make a major breakthrough.

This year has been Dieter Müller's year, however. He has won three world championship series in succession — in Deurne, Belgium, in Santiago de Chile and in Berlin.

This is a feat unrivalled by a German billiard player in the 75-year-old history of world championship billiards. Walter Joachim and Albert Pönsgen of Berlin had to make do with two titles, August Tiedtke of Düsseldorf and Walter Lütgehetmann of Frankfurt with one each.

Dieter Müller, who is married to a Viennese girl, has run a billiards hall in Berlin since 1966. He is such a devastating player that further feats may well lie ahead, He certainly has no intention of retiring just yet.

He has played billiards for eighteen years now, embarking on what was later to prove his career for the unlikeliest of reasons.

As a sixteen-year-old in Neukölln, a West Berlin suburb, he wanted to play table tennis at his local youth club. But the tables were always busy, so he took up billiards instead.

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 29 November 1977)

Get fit fast, trainer tells handball squad

Two drawn games against reigning indoor handball world champions Rumania have left this country's chief coach Vlado Stenzel in little doubt as to where the shortcomings lie.

After the national team had drawn nineteen-all in Hamburg and eighteen-all in Münster Stenzel called on his squad to step up training in preparation for the forthcoming world championships.

In addition to up to four sessions of club training per week Vlado Stenzel expects his charges to put in another two sessions a week.

"This," he says, "is the only way in which, to a certain extent, this country can prevent the greater power East Bloc athletes pack from proving insuperable".

In both Hamburg and Münster the home team was not fit enough to be anywhere near sure of a medal at the next world championships, which are to be held in Denmark from 26 January to 5 February.

Chief coach Stenzel will only see his squad once for a training session in January before the world championship tournament gets under way.

Physically, he feels, the Rumanians had the edge over his team to an extent that ought normally to have been worth a ten-goal advantage.

This advantage was offset solely by the individual talent and adaptability of Herr Stenzel's squad, but individual team members cannot be expected to pull off this feat time and time again.

The squad appreciate the need for greater fitness. Team captain Horst Spengler, a 27-year-old with 85 caps to his credit, has this to say:

"We are going to put in that extra training come what may, but it will mean training every day, and our clubs may prove the losers. If we pull out all the stops now we may lack the power to maintain the pace in league fixtures."

This is not a problem the leading East Bloc handball-playing countries face. Domestic championships were shelved early on in the season — in September in Rumania, for instance.

But Horst Spengler reckons the sixteen members of the national squad are sensible enough to strike a balance. If they fail to do so their clubs are going to start complaining, of course.

At all events the extra training sessions ordered by chief coach Vlado Stenzel will also serve as preparation for the international fixtures against Olympic bronze medallists Poland in the week before Christmas.

Horst Spengler claims that he and the squad have agreed to put in daily training sessions after the games against Poland, leaving out only Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, with a view to being top fit when they report for the final team training session.

While the team plan to look after themselves, as it were, handball official Heinz Jacobsen from Kiel has made sure that fans from this country will be there to lend the team vocal support.

He invested more than 5,000 deutschmarks in tickets for the world championship fixtures against Czechoslovakia, Canada and Yugoslavia.

"I am glad I ran the risk," Jacobsen says. "Tickets for all these games are now sold out."

Peter Teske

(Die Welt, 29 November 1977)